

HUMAN SPACE ENDEAVOURS SYMPOSIUM (B3)
Overview Session (Present and Near-Term Human Space Flight Programmes) (1)

Author: Mr. Scott Norris
Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, United States, scott.d.norris@lmco.com

ORION PROGRAM EFT-1 STATUS

Abstract

The Orion program, originally known as the Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) project, was awarded to Lockheed Martin in September 2006 for the Design, Development, Test and Evaluation (DDTE) and production phases. The 2011 President's Budget Request, released in February 2010, called for the cancellation of the Constellation Program, including Orion, however, Orion was ultimately reformed as the Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle (MPCV) program and, although the fundamental design requirements of the vehicle have remained stable since the reformulation, the vehicle's mission has significantly changed from ISS crew servicing to beyond earth orbit (BEO) exploration. Since the reestablishment of Orion as the BEO MPCV the design requirements have stabilized and the program will now focus more on test and evaluation.

Following the reformulation of Orion MPCV in 2011 Lockheed Martin's contract was modified to focus on an Orion exploration flight test one, called EFT-1 to validate subsystems on Orion required for a high speed re-entry similar to a BEO return. This mission will be followed by an un-crewed Exploration Flight Test (EM-1) and then a crewed Exploration Flight Test (EM-2).

This paper will describe the most recent progress of the Orion EFT-1 Project, including affordability initiatives, current test architecture, risk reduction initiatives, vehicle design, and production status.