

IAF HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT SYMPOSIUM (B3)
Commercial Human Spaceflight Programmes (2)

Author: Mr. Douglas Comstock

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States, doug.comstock@nasa.gov

Mr. Sam Scimemi

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States, Sam.scimemi@nasa.gov

Mr. Philip McAlister

NASA, United States, philip.mcalister@nasa.gov

NASA'S COMMERCIAL LEO PLANS AND STATUS

Abstract

NASA has developed and is implementing a plan to develop a robust economy in low-Earth orbit where NASA will be one of many customers for a variety of commercially provided services. Key among these services are commercial human spaceflight transportation and accommodations. NASA is making the International Space Station (ISS) available for up to two private astronaut missions per year, encouraging the private sector to leverage the commercial human spaceflight capabilities that have been developed in partnership with industry under NASA's Commercial Crew Program. NASA is also partnering with industry to develop commercial destinations in low-Earth orbit that can accommodate astronauts and conduct a variety of research and commercial activities. NASA intends to purchase services from these commercial destinations in a phased transition from the ISS. Commercial human spaceflight capabilities for transportation and accommodations are cornerstones that will enable this vision of a robust economy in low-Earth orbit. This paper will provide an overview of NASA's plans, and provide a status of ongoing implementation of those plans.