



# **NASA's Commerical Crew Program**

NASA's Commercial Crew Program is working with the American aerospace industry to develop safe, reliable and cost-effective spacecraft and rockets that will carry humans to low-Earth orbit destinations, including the International Space Station. Once NASA determines these systems are safe, four astronauts will fly aboard the spacecraft to the space station. Currently the Russian Soyuz spacecraft carries three astronauts. The fourth astronaut who launches aboard a Commercial Crew vehicle will be able to focus 40 hours a week on scientific research, doubling the total amount of research currently conducted on the station.

Eventually, NASA will buy tickets for its astronauts to ride aboard these systems. Think of it like chartering a plane or taking a taxi ride to low-Earth orbit. Because companies own and operate their own systems, they can market to non-NASA customers. By encouraging companies to provide human transportation services to and from low-Earth orbit – a region NASA's been visiting since 1962 – America's space agency will get the most research and experience out of the nation's orbiting laboratory. It also allows NASA to focus on building spacecraft and rockets for deep space missions, including flights to Mars in the 2030s.



#### Going into 2015, the Commercial Crew Program has four industry partners:



Blue Origin Spacecraft: Space Vehicle Launch Vehicle: Orbital Launch Vehicle

> Destination: Low-Earth Orbit

> > Crew: You?



Spacecraft:

CST-100 Launch Vehicle: United Launch Alliance

Atlas V Launch Pad: Cape Canaveral Air Force

Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Complex 41

Destination: International Space Station

You?





Spacecraft: Dream Chaser

Launch Vehicle: United Launch Alliance Atlas V

Launch Pad: Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Complex 41

> Destination: Low-Earth Orbit

> > Crew: You?





Spacecraft: Crew Dragon

Launch Vehicle: Falcon 9 v1.1

Launch Pad: Kennedy Space Center Launch Complex 39A

Destination: International Space Station

> Crew: You?



### SPACESHIP ON A PLANET

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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20 23 00 01				New Year's Day		
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

#### Spacecraft

NASA's spacecraft of the past had thousands of knobs and dials. Today's Commercial Crew spacecraft will use touchscreens, 3D printed seats and engines, and will be lightweight, but tough enough to withstand meteorites.





### SPACECRAFT INTERIOR - NASA KEVIN STYLE!



 January 2015
 March 2015

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#### Spacecraft Interior

Every spacecraft's interior has been unique and advanced for its time. Apollo was very different from the space shuttle, and both are very different from the Commercial Crew systems that astronauts will use to fly to the station. Today's spacecraft could feature tablet-like technology, 3D printed seats, Wi-Fi and much more.





### FREEDOM FLYER



#### Spacesuits

PINK SUITS ME WELL STACY, 10, COCOA BEACH, FL



An astronaut's spacesuit is like his or her own personal spacecraft. Commercial Crew spacesuits will keep astronauts safe by providing breathable air and a cool temperature. They also will enable constant communication with people monitoring their health here on the ground.

2015



### LAUNCH VEHICLE OF NASA



#### Launch Vehicle

The Commercial Crew rockets that will carry astronauts to the International Space Station will be smaller than NASA's previous Saturn V and space shuttle systems. Their missions are different, so their capabilities are different. Think of it like riding your bike to see your next-door neighbor, instead of driving a semi-truck on a cross-country trek.





### FLORIDA WILDLIFE WATCHING A LAUNCH



31

#### Florida Space Coast Launches

The rumble . . . the glow . . . the excitement! Every time NASA has launched people off the surface of Earth and into space, it has been from Florida's Space Coast. In the next couple years, we will see Commercial Crew engines glow orange and plumes of smoke as astronauts again launch to the International Space Station from Florida. In the 2030s, we will also see astronauts launching from Florida's Space Coast as they begin their journey to Mars.





## STATION IN SPACE ABOVE EARTH



#### **International Space Station**

Look up! The International Space Station is orbiting about 250 miles above the surface of Earth, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. On board, astronauts conduct ground-breaking research that helps us here on Earth. They are also learning what it takes to live for long periods of time in space, which will help them on their journey to Mars. Commercial Crew will help add an additional crew member to the station, essentially doubling today's research potential.





### ORBITING THE EARTH



#### **Research in Space**

Every day, astronauts perform research aboard the International Space Station, Commercial Crew's ultimate destination. That research makes our lives better here on Earth. It helps us understand more about our own planet and prepares us for longer missions to Mars.





### ASTRONAUT RECOVERED AT SEA

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30	31	<b>Lifeboat</b> Similar to lifeboats	s on a cruise ship. Co	ommercial Crew		

Similar to lifeboats on a cruise ship, Commercial Crew spacecraft that will fly astronauts to the International Space Station are designed to safely and quickly evacuate the station's crew in an emergency.





### MAKING CONTACT



#### **Enabling Deep-Space Exploration**

Commercial Crew spacecraft will go to the International Space Station about 250 miles above Earth. But the solar system has hundreds of other interesting places, too! Future astronauts could use other spacecraft to explore asteroids that are close enough to Earth, or maybe even a comet.





### SPLASH LANDING



#### Landing

Spacecraft landings are quite impressive. After flying through space and re-entering the atmosphere at 17,500 miles per hour, spacecraft have to land smoothly to protect the astronauts and scientific research they carry. Commercial Crew spacecraft designers are looking at options to land with parachutes and airbags, fly to a runway, similar to an airplane, or land using only rocket engines.





### ENCOURAGING NASA'S JOURNEY TO MARS



#### Journey to Mars

By encouraging private companies to provide human transportation services to and from low-Earth orbit – a region NASA's been visiting since 1962 – America's space agency will get the most research and experience out of the nation's orbiting laboratory. Commercial Crew allows NASA to expand its focus to build spacecraft and rockets for flights to Mars.

November 2015

MERRITT ISLAND, FL



### ME IN SPACE



#### You Could Fly to Space

Remember when only astronauts could go to space? NASA won't be the only customer for new Commercial Crew spacecraft. Companies will own and operate their crew transportation systems and be able to sell services to other customers . . . will you be one of them?

SANTA'S NEW RIDE KATHRYN, 12, TITUSVILLE, FL





### COMMERCIAL CREW

NASA's Commercial Crew Program and its partners in the American aerospace industry are advancing systems to transport crews to and from low-Earth orbit destinations, including the International Space Station, from the U.S. By working with companies as they develop safe, reliable and cost-effective systems for low-Earth orbit, the agency can expand human exploration farther into the solar system on its journey to Mars.

For more information, go to: www.nasa.gov/commercialcrew and blogs.nasa.gov/commercialcrew

www.nasa.gov



Connect at:

@Commercial\_Crew

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