

National Space Society Supports NASA's New Lunar Lander Decision

Strong Letter of Agreement Supports NASA Administrator's Announcement of Commercial Contracts

WASHINGTON, D.C., US, May 5, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The National Space Society (NSS) has distributed a letter of public support to NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine supporting the agency's forward-looking decision to issue contracts to commercial space companies SpaceX, Dynetics and Blue Origin to provide human landing hardware for NASA's Artemis missions to the Moon. The three companies, all of which have already made strong investments in their lander designs, are now greenlighted to continue the development of their diverse lunar landing systems. This decision provides a base of robust technologies to accomplish this important national goal at great savings to the taxpayer over more traditional contracting agreements. The letter, which is also addressed to NASA's Associate Administrator for the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate Doug Loverro, follows.



Three companies selected by NASA: SpaceX, Dynetics, and the Blue Origin National Team, have been selected for developmental contract awards.

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National Space Society leadership.

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A Public Letter to:
Administrator James Bridenstine
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
300 E. St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20546

Dear Administrator Bridenstine,

The National Space Society (NSS) wishes to commend your

April 30 announcement concerning NASA's choice of SpaceX, Dynetics, and Blue Origin's National Team to provide human landing systems to carry crew to the Moon for Artemis III. We also laud Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations Doug Loverro for his diligence in assuring that commercial companies are key for making sure the Artemis Program is a timely success.

We believe NASA has shown great wisdom in selecting three different architectures for its Human Landing System to increase its chances for success. We also believe that your announcement further enhances NASA's earlier decisions to leverage commercial companies for its Commercial Lunar Payload Services Resupply Services and Gateway Logistics Services.

Through these actions, NASA demonstrates that it is deeply committed to achieving its goal of sending humans to the Moon, Mars, and beyond in the most cost-effective and sustainable manner possible.

Concerning space development costs, many outside NASA do not realize that NASA's public-private partnerships leverage commercial space services in a way that maximizes the return on precious taxpayer dollars. We note, for example, that the private companies selected for the HLS have already invested large sums in Artemis Program initiatives. Moreover, the record clearly shows that NASA's purchase of commercial services with non-cost-plus contracts has already saved many tens of millions in taxpayer dollars when compared with the use of cost-plus contracts to develop government-owned and operated vehicles.

The National Space Society (via policy papers and outreach to the public with articles, press releases, blogs, books, and social media) stands ready to support your policies facilitating the participation of commercial space companies in the Artemis Project and other NASA endeavors. Our 30 chapters, located worldwide, and NSS leadership broadly back commercial space as essential to making space development affordable and sustainable, ultimately leading to humans living and working in space for the benefit of people everywhere, including those on Earth.

In sum, we fully support NASA's effort to put the first woman and next man on the surface of the Moon by the end of 2024 via the Artemis Program and stand ready to collaborate with NASA to ensure that commercial companies are central to that endeavor.

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The letter was signed by:

Alfred B. Anzaldúa, Chair of the NSS Policy Committee and Executive Vice President
Dale Skran, Chair of the Executive Committee
Geoffrey Notkin, President of the NSS
Karlton Johnson, Chairman of the NSS Board of Governors
Bruce Pittman, Senior Vice President and Senior Operating Officer
Greg Autry, Vice President of Space Development

Any of the above individuals may be contacted for comment via the phone number and email address provided.

The National Space Society was founded in 1987 via a merger of the National Space Institute, founded by NASA's Wernher von Braun, and the L5 Society, based on the work of space settlement pioneer Gerard K. O'Neill. It is the world's largest pro-human-spaceflight organization.

NASA's newest actions are in step with the NSS's [Roadmap to Space Settlement](#), which lays out an overall plan to increase the human presence in cislunar space, on the Moon and beyond.

To learn more about the NSS and its mission to establish humanity as a spacefaring species, visit us on the web at space.nss.org.

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