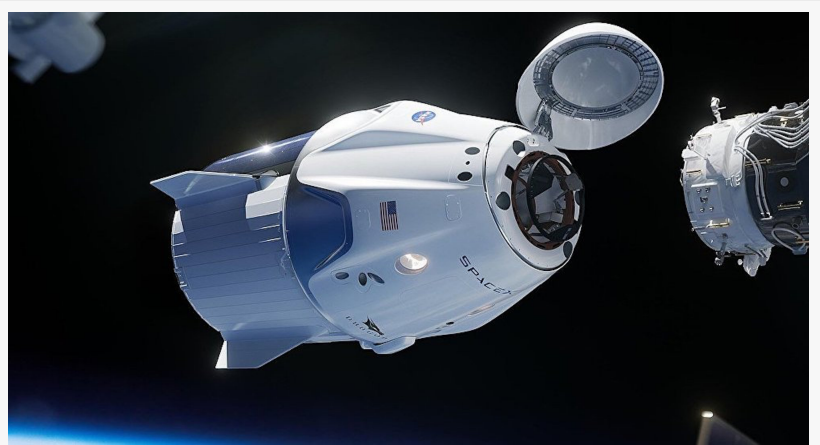


SpaceX Launches Two U.S. Astronauts into Orbit Aboard Crew Dragon Capsule

National Space Society Lauds Groundbreaking Launch of a Crewed Commercial Spacecraft from U.S. Soil

WASHINGTON, D.C., USA, May 30, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The National Space Society applauds the successful launch of two Americans to the International Space Station—the first from American soil in nearly a decade—today aboard a SpaceX rocket. NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken launched aboard SpaceX's new Crew Dragon capsule and will remain on the ISS for at least a month before riding the capsule back to Earth.



Artist's impression of SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule docking with the International Space Station. Credit: SpaceX

After a weather-related scrub on Wednesday, the Demo-2 mission got underway today, Saturday, May 30.



The United States no longer needs to depend on Russia's Soyuz spacecraft to carry its citizens to the ISS."

Dale Skran, Chair of the NSS Executive Committee

The Demo-2 mission demonstrates the wisdom of NASA's public-private cooperation with SpaceX, which (along with Boeing) won Commercial Crew Capability (CCTCap) contracts in 2014 to deliver astronauts to the International Space Station. Boeing was awarded \$4.2 billion and SpaceX \$2.6 billion for six crewed flights to and from the ISS starting in 2017. However, both companies suffered congressional funding shortfalls and technical challenges

that delayed the development of their spacecraft.

The NSS's Senior Operating Officer Bruce Pittman remarked, "The CCTCap program was itself modeled on an earlier and remarkably successful public-private NASA program from 2006 called the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) program. That program resulted in SpaceX's Dragon capsule and Northrop Grumman's Cygnus capsule carrying supplies to the ISS

starting in 2012. That resounding success served as a groundbreaking model for NASA's commercial crew program."

The Chair of the NSS's Executive Committee Dale Skran added, "Today's successful launch is a watershed moment with far-reaching symbolic and practical consequences. The United States no longer needs to depend on Russia's Soyuz spacecraft to carry its citizens to the ISS. Moreover, the Demo-2 mission sets the stage and serves as a model for a new era with government and commercial organizations working together to develop the resources of cislunar space for the benefit of everyone on Earth."

For more information about the future of human spaceflight and settlement of the solar system, see the NSS's "[Roadmap to Space Settlement](#)."

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, and is the preeminent citizen's voice on space exploration and development.

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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