

Sixth IAASS Conference: Safety is Not an Option

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NASA's Commercial Crew Program, the Next Step in U.S. Space Transportation

Abstract

The Commercial Crew Program (CCP) is leading NASA's efforts to develop the next U.S. capability for crew transportation and rescue services to and from the International Space Station (ISS) by the mid-decade timeframe. The outcome of this capability is expected to stimulate and expand the U.S. space transportation industry. NASA is relying on its decades of human space flight experience to certify U.S. crewed vehicles to the ISS and is doing so in a two phase certification approach. NASA certification will cover all aspects of a crew transportation system, including:

- Development, test, evaluation, and verification
- Program management and control
- Flight readiness certification
- Launch, landing, recovery, and mission operations
- Sustaining engineering and maintenance/upgrades

To ensure NASA crew safety, NASA certification will validate technical and performance requirements, verify compliance with NASA requirements, validate that the crew transportation system operates in the appropriate environments, and quantify residual risks. The Commercial Crew Program will present progress to date and how it manages safety and reduces risk.