



Human Space Exploration Update (Sept 29 – Oct 3, 2014)

Congress

- **Continuing Resolution Appropriations:** [Happy Fiscal Year 2015! Though NASA Still Doesn't Have a Budget](#) Continuing budget resolutions adopted by the U.S. House and Senate and signed by President Obama will keep the federal government operating through Dec. 11 without a formal budget. The 2015 fiscal year began Oct. 1.
- **Rep. Culberson (R-TX-7):** [Profile | U.S. Rep. John Culberson \(R-Texas\), Member, House Appropriations commerce, justice, science and related agencies subcommittee](#) Rep. John Culberson, a Texas Republican, is in line to chair the House appropriations subcommittee responsible for NASA's budget. Culberson champions a new NASA robotic mission start to Jupiter's ice covered moon, Europa. Also a proponent of NASA's Space Launch System, Orion and Commercial Crew Program developments, Culberson believes there is bipartisan support for increasing NASA's budget. Foremost, however, he favors an appointment process for the administrator with terms that extend across presidential elections and a budget process that does not include the White House Office of Management and Budget.

International Space Station

- **Extending ISS Operations:** [Space Station partners in no rush to decide on extension](#) Earlier this year, the Obama Administration announced plans to extend operations aboard the International Space Station from 2020 to 2024. At a "Heads of Agencies" panel at the 2014 International Astronautical Congress, representatives from major partner space agencies in Canada, Europe and Japan said their responses may not be ready until 2016. Making the most of the station now is higher priority.

Orion and Space Launch System

- **Orion Progress Report (September):** http://www.nasa.gov/exploration/systems/mpcv/orion_reports_archive.html
- **EFT-1 Rocket:** [Rocket for Orion maiden flight hauled out to Cape Canaveral launch pad](#) A United Launch Alliance Delta 4 rocket has been transported and erected at Space Launch Complex 37, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., for the NASA/Lockheed Martin Exploration Flight Test-1. Set for a Dec. 4 lift off, the uncrewed EFT-1 will mark the first test flight of the Orion capsule that is under development to start U.S. astronauts on future missions of deep space exploration. (See also: [Road to EFT-1: Orion fueled for flight, ATK tests launch abort motor igniter](#))
- **SLS Progress Report (September):** http://www.nasa.gov/exploration/systems/sls/sls_highlights.html

Commercial Space Transportation

- **Stop Work:** [NASA Directs Boeing and SpaceX to Stop Work on CCtCAP](#) NASA directs Boeing

and SpaceX to stop all work on recently awarded Commercial Crew Transportation Capability contracts, while the U.S. General Accountability Office hears a contract appeal from Sierra Nevada Corporation. The Sept. 16 NASA award allocated \$4.2 billion for final development of Boeing's CST-100 and \$2.6 billion to SpaceX for work on a passenger version of the Dragon. Sierra Nevada Corporation appealed Sept. 26. The GAO is expected to provide a response by early January.

Space Budgets, Policy, Missions, Benefits, International ...

- **U.S.-China Relations in Space:** [Editorial: U.S., China should cooperate in space](#) It's time for the U.S. to begin a careful partnership with China in space, according to an Aviation Week editorial. "The upsides can be significant," the publication posits. "The downsides can be managed."
- **Benefits of Space Exploration:** [My view: Space education success on Mars](#) Space exploration encourages better international relations and advances technology, writes Arthur I. Cyr, author of "After the Cold War," in an op-ed.
- **Bezos on Space:** [Amazon.com Billionaire Wants to Leave His Mark on Space](#) Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos explains his passion for space exploration and the rocket engine that could replace the Russian RD-180 that powers the first stage of the Atlas 5.
- **Dream Chaser Derivative:** [Sierra Nevada and Stratolaunch Systems studying human launch system](#) Sierra Nevada's Dream Chaser, in a scaled back passenger version, may find new life as an air launched payload with Stratolaunch Systems, according to a presentation before the 2014 International Astronautical Congress meeting this week in Toronto.

Ground System Development & Operations

- **GSDO Progress Report (September):**
http://www.nasa.gov/exploration/systems/ground/gsdo_newsletters.html

Florida Highlights

- **RD-180 Rocket Engine Options:** [Aerojet Rocketdyne says AR1 engine is best fit for Atlas 5](#)
Officials of Aerojet Rocketdyne say their AR1 liquid rocket engine is the best domestic alternative to the Russian RD-180 that now powers the first stage of the United Launch Alliance Atlas 5. (See also: [ULA to help fund Aerojet Rocketdyne engine studies](#) and [California lawmakers criticize Pentagon's purchase of Russian rockets](#))

Citizens for Space Exploration – a pro-space, grassroots advocacy group, supported by the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce, travels to Washington, D.C. to meet face-to-face with Members/staff of Congress to discuss the value of America's investment in space exploration. To sustain that dialogue on a regular basis, Citizens distributes "Human Space Exploration Update" to Congressional offices on a weekly basis and makes it available to our Chamber members as a quick-and-easy way to stay informed on developments impacting NASA and Space Coast Florida.

http://www.bayareahouston.com/content/c_s_e/c_s_e