

## **NASA Advisory Council Recommendation**

### **Priority and Schedule of Commercial Crew Development 2013-02-02 (HEOC-02)**

#### **Recommendation:**

Timely establishment of a commercial capability to deliver U.S. astronauts to low earth orbit is essential to reduce undesirable reliance on a single non-U.S. provider, Soyuz. The Council is concerned that projected funding levels for commercial crew development may be insufficient to provide a safe and robust capability by the target date of 2017. NASA should develop and clearly articulate a plan for establishment of this capability that requires a demonstrated critical look at safety, and that addresses realistic funding levels, the contractor downselect process, and traceable milestones and target dates for initial operating capability. We request a briefing on this topic at the next NASA Advisory Council meeting.

#### **Major Reasons for Proposing the Recommendation:**

Rapid establishment of U.S. commercial crew transportation to ISS is critically important to NASA's human space program. There has been a significant shortfall in Commercial Crew Program funding over the past three years, typically ~40% less than requested, and this shortfall may continue. Safely achieving the required capability on the desired schedule in such a funding environment will be challenging, and it is not clear to the Council that NASA has a self-consistent plan in place.

#### **Consequences of No Action on the Proposed Recommendation:**

Increased risk to ISS due to dependency on a single source provider for crew transport to and from the ISS.

#### **NASA Response:**

NASA concurs with this recommendation. The mismatch between requested and appropriated funds for the program over the past three years has posed planning and implementation challenges; however, NASA's basic strategy remains intact. The Commercial Crew Program partners are working to accomplish a set of agreed-to milestones under Commercial Crew integrated Capability (CCiCAP) Space Act Agreements. In parallel, they have provided draft certification products for NASA's review under Certification Products Contracts (CPC), and NASA is providing feedback on these draft products for a second round of delivery. These CPC products will enable the partners to provide higher quality proposals in response to the Commercial Crew Transportation Capability (CCtCAP) request for proposals to be released this fall. Knowledge of the contents of these proposals and of the final FY2014 appropriation level will allow NASA to further refine its expectations and plans for commercial crew transportation. NASA will provide the requested briefing at the next NASA Advisory Council meeting.