

Media Release

DIRECT team to meet with Aerospace Corporation

Grass-roots volunteer team to discuss Launch Vehicle System engineering and analysis with Presidential Commission consultants.

Cape Canaveral, FL, July 7, 2009:

The DIRECT team has achieved its first major milestone, an independent review of all of the launch vehicles for the Vision for Space Exploration (VSE). Members of the DIRECT team will be meeting with engineering staff of Aerospace Corporation this Friday, July 10, 2009 in Los Angeles, to complete an in-depth evaluation of the Jupiter Launch Vehicle. Aerospace Corporation is a federally funded nonprofit research and development center supporting defense, civil, and commercial space programs. Aerospace Corporation has been tasked by the Review of Human Space Flight Plans Committee to evaluate alternatives to the troubled Ares launch vehicles.

DIRECT has asked, since its inception, for an independent, nonbiased review to validate its ability to achieve the cost, performance, schedule, and safety requirements in order to effectively replace the Shuttle in a timely manner and accelerate the return of astronauts to the Moon within a more reasonable budget. The team looks forward to working closely with the highly professional engineers of Aerospace Corporation in the coming weeks.

The Jupiter Launch Vehicle System is a Shuttle-derived family of inline launch vehicles based on a single common core developed from NASA's own National Launch System that was originally designed by NASA engineers at Marshall Space Flight Center. The DIRECT Team is a group of nearly 80 space industry professionals, NASA and contractor engineers, managers and analysts working on their own time, and a small group of dedicated private citizens. DIRECT asserts the ability to achieve a first flight of Orion by 2012, return to the Moon by 2018, and save over \$20 billion dollars in development costs alone, when compared to NASA's current Ares launch vehicle architecture. Cost savings in the DIRECT plan are created by the reutilization of existing, flight-ready hardware and systems, without any systems development programs.

For more information on the DIRECT Team and the Jupiter family of Launch Vehicles, see:

<http://www.directlauncher.com>.

For more information on the President's Commission to Review Human Space Flight Plans, see:

<http://www.nasa.gov/offices/hsf/home/index.html>.

For more information on Aerospace Corporation, see:

<http://www.aero.org/>.

