

## **DIRECT Team Urges House to Adopt Senate NASA Plan for 2011**

### **Applauds Compromise That Includes New Heavy Launcher and Commercial Programs**

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Cape Canaveral, Florida

The DIRECT Team applauds the recent White House support for the US Senate's NASA Authorization Act of 2010 bill, which was passed unanimously by the Senate last week. The Team now urges the US House of Representatives to join with both the President and the Senate, and adopt this same approach.

On July 15, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation committee unanimously approved the Authorization Act, including the directive for the space agency to start immediate development of a large Space Shuttle derived rocket and Orion spacecraft, intended to launch crewed exploration missions beyond Earth and also funding seed money to help this burgeoning new commercial market sector in order to create more jobs. On July 21 the full Senate Appropriations Committee also threw their official support behind this bill.

"The President's support for the Senate bill is a big step in the right direction, a wise meeting of the minds between all of the various stakeholders", said Ross Tierney, DIRECT Team founder. "If approved, the newly proposed \$6.9 billion 75 ton 'Space Launch System' project, very similar to our "Jupiter" Shuttle-derived system, would represent serious cost savings compared to the \$15 billion 20 ton Ares-I, and would also prevent the repeating of the tragic mistake of the 1970's, when Apollo vehicles, infrastructure and highly skilled personnel were simply discarded at the end of that program."

"Our work has shown that deriving a vehicle like Jupiter from Shuttle would allow the US to create an effective, sustainable heavy-lift capability within constrained timeframes and budgets," Tierney says. "This is the capability that we really need to finally take people out of Low Earth Orbit, all these years since Apollo."

The House of Representatives is currently considering a very different approach, one that continues work on the current, problematic, and far more expensive medium-lift Ares-I development program, which is incapable of sending humans beyond Earth without the a heavy-lift vehicle needing to be developed later. The House approach will also remove most of the money, over \$500 million, that the White House and Senate are seeking to bolster new commercial launch efforts.

Tomorrow the issue will hit the floor of the US House of Representatives where they will formally debate their own version of NASA's Authorization bill (H.R. 5781). The DIRECT Team hereby appeals to all members of the US House of Representatives, to join with the US Senate and the President, in swiftly supporting a more efficient US Human Space Flight Program, for the greater benefit of the nation.

#### About DIRECT:

Since 2006, the DIRECT Team – a volunteer group of advocates and NASA and space-industry engineers – has made the case for reworking the existing Space Shuttle vehicle design and infrastructure into a powerful but cost-effective large launch system, called "Jupiter", which is similar to the vehicle proposed Senate in the bill. The timeline and human-rating needs called for in the Senate plan make it overwhelmingly likely that existing shuttle hardware and facilities will be adapted to create this new launch system, possibly with select updates from the Constellation Program.

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