

Orbital Express

The Boeing Company takes great pride in leading the successful development and integration of the Orbital Express Advanced Technology Demonstration System. Like DARPA, Boeing believes we have a unique opportunity to revolutionize future space operations and systems architectures. A successful Orbital Express demonstration will be a significant step along this path. Our goal is to reduce the risk of the enabling technologies while creating the business and market environment that will facilitate the realization of our vision.

In addition to demonstrating the feasibility of on-orbit servicing, Orbital Express will demonstrate a number of technologies that can enhance current missions, or enable new ones. The ability to rendezvous allows us to inspect satellite anomalies, deliver consumables and/or cargo to the International Space Station and space exploration systems, and assemble large space structures on orbit.

As prime integrator, Boeing assembled a team encompassing all of the capabilities needed to make Orbital Express possible: Ball Aerospace (NextSat spacecraft); Northrop Grumman (fluid transfer and propulsion); MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd. (advanced robotics); Draper Laboratory (mission manager); and Starsys (capture mechanism).

My congratulations to the entire team for their efforts in achieving this milestone. We look forward to developing the next generation space architectures.



George K. Muellner
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