
Commercial LEO Destinations

Continue to fully fund Commercial LEO Destinations (CLD) program to ensure continued US access to, and presence in, low Earth orbit (LEO), while promoting economic development in LEO.

Cost: \$224.3m FY23 Enacted

The consensus over multiple Congresses and Administrations is that the successor to the wildly successful International Space Station (ISS) should be a competitive ecosystem of privately built and operated space stations.

Modeled on the successful commercial cargo and crew public-private partnerships, the Commercial LEO Destinations (CLD)¹ program is a series of contracts and milestones to help jump-start an ecosystem of space station services and to help ensure those companies provide services that are compatible with NASA's needs. As of 2023, the CLD program includes the following companies/consortia:

- [Axiom Space](#)
- [Blue Origin](#)
- [NanoRacks](#)
- [Northrop Grumman](#)

As with previous NASA-led public/private partnerships, the program specifically allows for downselects and failures. ***It is critical, for competition's sake, that there be at least two providers that survive the process and deliver robust and sustainable facilities*** for NASA, other agencies, other companies, academia, and the rest of the economy. The result should be a sustainable ecosystem that can efficiently and cost-effectively support commercial and scientific research, development, and manufacturing of space-produced products for sale back on Earth.

A key feature of NASA's public/private partnerships is that some participants in the final commercial service are not required to have gone through the original program. For example, Sierra Space's Dreamchaser was not an original participant in the development phase of the Commercial Cargo program but is now participating in the program. The long-term result should be an ecosystem that can operate and grow on its own, allowing NASA to concentrate on going to the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

Continued Congressional support for a ***competitive Commercial LEO Destinations program*** is essential to all that comes later in space.

¹ <https://www.nasa.gov/leo-economy/commercial-destinations-in-low-earth-orbit>