

Re: I Dream of Jeanne

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From: Joann Evans (*bondage_at_frontiernet.net*)

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Richard Schumacher wrote:

>

> *This it: the end of the shuttles, and with them the end of the arthritic*

> *NASA bureaucracy.*

To be automatically followed by...what?

And name something that isn't already happening, or that couldn't happen in the presence of NASA. There are such things, but the set is smaller than you seem to believe. The barrier is money. Period. Government money. Private investment capital, etc. NASA may spend it inefficiently, but if it isn't there at all, even a half-assed project doesn't happen. The private sector can do better, but you have to convince those with very deep pockets that you have a good idea. Shutting down the shuttles won't necessarily put one more penny into either another government space project, or into the private startups.

Remember, transatlantic travel by ship didn't become obsolete by sinking those ships first, it naturally became so, when something better (long range commercial aircraft) came along.

Better access to LEO won't happen by merely grounding the shuttles, it'll happen by building and flying something that can do it better.

And that means meaningful up-front investment, wether you think you can build a decent orbiter now, or want to approach it incrementally with higher and faster suborbitals.

Find the money (if you can), find the talent (there seems to be plenty out there), make it happen. Dancing with glee over NASA's woes acheives nothing.

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You know what to remove, to reply....