

Re: Spacefaring by bureaucrats

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From: Derek Lyons (*fairwater_at_gmail.com*)

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stevejdoufour@yahoo.com wrote:

>The result of these bureaucratic requirements has been to discourage
>the participation of some of the more innovative and smaller new
>aerospace companies -- such as the companies that competed for the
>Ansari X Prize and actually might be able to build something quickly
>and for less money.

Given the utter lack of experience of the Ansari X Prize competitors in building craft intended to be actually operated and maintained for more than a few flights over a short period of time... Is this a bad thing?

>Much of the paperwork seems redundant, however, and accomplishes
>little more than to increase costs, waste resources, slow development
>and keep NASA bureaucrats employed reviewing and filing these reports.
>Companies not only will have to perform a risk-management report, but
>they also will have to maintain nine other safety reports, including
>a safety and mission assurance plan, a fault tree analysis, a system
>safety hazard analysis, a mishap and safety statistics report, and a
>probabilistic risk assessment plan.

And these reports are different from what a builder might reasonably be expected to provide an insurer or private operator how?

>Worse, in order to reduce their risk in this restrictive government
>environment, the most likely concept these corporations will propose
>for this so-called next-generation human spacecraft will be an
>unoriginal variation of an Apollo capsule, linked to a Russian-style
>habitable module and an only slightly updated Apollo lunar module. This
>fact already can be seen by some of the preliminary design drawings the
>companies have released.
>
>So much for innovation and a bold step forward for American space
>exploration.

This is to be expected... as the Capsule Cabal have been calling for just such designs for years. (Apollo is k3w1! Soyuz is l33t! The

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Shuttle suxx0rs!)

It should also be mentioned that innovation comes in other forms than moldline.

D.

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Touch-twice life. Eat. Drink. Laugh.

-Resolved: To be more temperate in my postings.

Oct 5th, 2004 JDL