

Re: Man-Rating Atlas V

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Will,

Which is probably adequate for a LEO ferry, but not for the CEV, which has an explicit requirement of being roomy enough for the longer lunar mission and having enough delta-v to come back from lunar orbit.

Of course, the particular architecture ESAS settled on was far from the

only way of skinning the cat. For instance, for the ~30klb CEV weight under discussion, you could launch one capsule, one Bigelow Sundancer module, and one LOX/Kero or LOX/Methane propulsion module capable of providing the delta-V.

The whole "roomy enough" argument I think is rather silly. Building or buying a separate mission module with sleeping, eating, and bathroom facilities for long-term missions, and then docking it with the crew transport would make a lot more sense.

As for the delta-V....on-orbit refueling would allow you to build a lunar transfer vehicle that didn't have to pansy out and make the LSAM and CEV do most of its job.

~Jon

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