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July 27, 2018

TO: Officials-in-Charge of Headquarters Offices
Directors, NASA Centers

FROM: Associate Administrator

SUBJECT: Decision Authority for Commercial Crew Program

In October 2015, the Agency Program Management Council (APMC) evaluated the readiness of the Commercial Crew Program (CCP) to proceed and approved continued execution of the program. This approval was in response to a unanimous concurrence by the NASA Technical Authorities, as well as the Standing Review Board (SRB). In addition, annual reviews, including an independent assessment from the SRB of program performance, were established to enable the APMC's oversight role of the CCP.

Following additional milestone progress by the CCP in 2016, the NASA Associate Administrator, at the time, delegated the decision authority for approval of future Human Rating Certification packages under CCP's contracts to the Associate Administrator, Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD).

Currently, the approval of the certification packages for both Boeing and SpaceX will follow a series of demonstration milestones and critical events. Each of these events will provide data on the performance of the rockets, spacecraft, ground systems, and operations to ensure the systems are safe to fly astronauts. Boeing and SpaceX have both volunteered to perform an uncrewed flight test to demonstrate their systems are safe for crew, even though this is not a NASA requirement for certifying the systems for human spaceflight.

Given the criticality of meeting these milestones successfully, and the high-profile nature of the CCP, I have decided to assume the decision authority role in certifying the Boeing and SpaceX designs for human rating. The certification decision will be informed by various HEOMD and Technical Authorities reviews, as well as a final assessment by the SRB in November 2018. I will work closely with the HEOMD Associate Administrator to ensure closure on any discrepancies or dissenting opinions prior to preceding with the initial crewed flight test milestones. The decision authority for the flight readiness approvals will remain with the HEOMD Associate Administrator.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen G. Jurczyk".

Stephen G. Jurczyk