

Space Transportation: The Next Frontier

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Purpose of Study

To examine modern space transportation and the latest innovations.

Introduction

Commercial Space Transportation is relevant because if we did not know about it, we would not be able to know what's in outer space, or the weather, or as much as we do about our planet-Earth.

Public Perception

After witnessing two fatal NASA space shuttle missions, Challenger in 1981 and Columbia in 2003, the public became skeptical of space exploration and space transportation.

Space Shuttle Orbiter Graphics Treatment



Figure 1. NASA Space Shuttle Orbiter.

Discoveries

NASA ended its Shuttle Program in 2011 after 30 years. This left an opening for other private companies, such as SpaceX, to enter the scene. SpaceX was founded in 2002 with the goal of reducing space transportation costs and colonizing Mars. SpaceX has an ultimate goal of colonizing Mars by the year 2025.

Applications in commercial space transportation

Right now, we could never have a vacation on Mars because there is no oxygen on Mars, no water, not a single person laid a foot on the red sand dust of Mars. With SpaceX aiming to colonize Mars, all of this might change. Mars may have natural resources that we do not have on Earth. Scientists also might be able to determine if Mars used to have life, and how that life ended. They will also be able to determine how Mars lost all of its water. We could learn how to prevent the same thing from happening to the Earth.



Figure 2. SpaceX Launching.

Conclusion

The human population is continuing to grow. The next step for exploration is to begin colonizing other planets in our solar system. Once we begin living on other planets, we will make even more discoveries that will improve the lives of humans such as finding cures for different diseases.

References

www.nasa.gov
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