RESOLUTION NO. 2008-M-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION URGE THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE OPTIONS TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THE NEED TO PROCURE FOREIGN LOGISTICS SERVICES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

WHEREAS, the United States has a strategic interest in maintaining the nation’s preeminence in spaceflight; the spaceflight expertise at the Kennedy Space Center is a center of excellence that should be maintained after the discontinuance of Space Shuttle missions; and the United States has an obligation to provide crew and cargo logistics services to the International Space Station after the Shuttle is retired; and

WHEREAS, until the Constellation Program reaches operational status, the United States currently plans to substantially fulfill those obligations by purchasing logistics services with Russia, notably Soyuz and Progress flights; and these plans make the United States largely dependent on the Russians for a five-year period or more in obtaining access to the International Space Station; and

WHEREAS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has executed Space Act Agreements under the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) Program to foster domestic commercial capability to provide crew and cargo logistics to the International Space Station; the COTS Program provides for four different cargo and crew logistics capabilities known as Capabilities A, B, C and D; and the United States is the world’s premier spacefaring nation because the American aerospace industry has consistently provided solutions to national needs including those of NASA; and

WHEREAS, these talents should be tasked to providing domestic solutions to America’s crew and cargo logistics needs; and resources to be spent on procuring Russian Soyuz and Progress logistics services would best be devoted to the development and procurement of domestic crew and cargo logistics capabilities; and
WHEREAS, the economic well-being of the Central Florida region, including Orange County, depends and is influenced by the procurement of local logistical services such as that provided by the Kennedy Space Center;

NOW THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, Florida, that this resolution be forwarded to the State of Florida Congressional Delegation with a request that the Delegation as a whole urge the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to immediately explore all possible domestic options – including COTS Program Capabilities A, B, C and D – to reduce or eliminate the need to procure foreign logistics services to the International Space Station; that such efforts should not be limited to cargo logistics but should aggressively target crew logistics needs including but not limited to COTS Capability D; and that the Delegation encourage the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to fully utilize the demonstrated excellence of the Kennedy Space Center for the integration and launch of these crew and cargo logistics operations.

ADOPTED THIS 20th DAY OF May, 2008.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Board of County Commissioners

By: Richard T. Crotty
Orange County Mayor

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: Deputy Clerk