



---

# NASA Science Chief Calls for Mass Production of Satellites

## Description

NASA is exploring new possibilities for lunar and interplanetary missions through commercial partnerships. This initiative aims to lower costs and broaden access to space exploration by utilising commercially available spacecraft.

Under the Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) programme, NASA plans to procure missions from private companies that develop landers and orbiters for future explorations. These missions intend to deliver NASA-owned scientific instruments to the Moon, paving the way for subsequent human missions. Mars is viewed as the logical next target for this model, as it may harness similar commercial capabilities.

The excitement surrounding the potential of private enterprises is palpable. Many suggest that the same approach could facilitate the deployment of scientific instruments across various destinations. NASA's focus on "block buys," or bulk purchases, may streamline the procurement process for upcoming lunar missions.

Key players in the CLPS programme include Firefly Aerospace, Intuitive Machines, Astrobotic, and Blue Origin, founded by Jeff Bezos. These companies are also developing enhancements for human-rated lunar landers alongside SpaceX. Other firms, such as K2 Space and Rocket Lab, are advancing mass-produced satellite platforms for both terrestrial and deep-space applications. The US military and private sectors serve as primary clients; however, NASA stands to gain from these innovations.

Blue Origin's Blue Ring is a notable example, described as a high-powered spacecraft capable of utilising both solar electric and chemical propulsion. This versatility allows it to perform various tasks involving payload deployment around Earth, the Moon, and beyond, all while maintaining reduced operational costs.

Future missions may see Blue Ring being employed to place multiple small satellites to identify resources on asteroids, illustrating the innovative potential of the commercial sector in facilitating space exploration.

---

## Vocabulary List:

1. **commercial** //kə'mɜːʃəl// (adjective): connected with business and buying or selling things
2. **utilising** //ˈjuːtə,laɪzɪŋ// (verb): using something for a particular, practical purpose
3. **procure** //prəˈkjʊr// (verb): to obtain something, usually by effort or purchase
4. **landers** //ˈlændərz// (noun): spacecraft designed to go down onto a planet surface
5. **propulsion** //prəˈpʌlʃən// (noun): the power or force that moves a vehicle forward
6. **payload** //ˈpeɪləʊd// (noun): the cargo or equipment carried by a vehicle during mission



## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What is the goal of NASA's initiative regarding lunar and interplanetary missions?  
Option: To lower costs and broaden access to space exploration  
Option: To develop new spacecraft models  
Option: To focus solely on human missions  
Option: To eliminate commercial partnerships
2. Which company is NOT mentioned as a key player in the CLPS programme?  
Option: Firefly Aerospace  
Option: Intuitive Machines  
Option: Blue Origin  
Option: NASA
3. Who founded Blue Origin?  
Option: Elon Musk  
Option: Jeff Bezos  
Option: Richard Branson  
Option: Bill Gates
4. Mars is considered the next target for NASA's commercial capabilities because it may harness similar \_\_\_\_\_.  
Option: resources  
Option: technology  
Option: capabilities  
Option: commercial contracts

### Gap-Fill

4. Mars is considered the next target for NASA's commercial capabilities because it may harness similar \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What type of spacecraft is Blue Ring described as?



- Option: A low-powered spacecraft
- Option: A high-powered spacecraft
- Option: A cargo spacecraft
- Option: A fuel spacecraft

6. What does 'block buys' refer to in NASA's procurement approach?

- Option: Bulk purchases
- Option: One-time purchases
- Option: Small orders
- Option: Exclusive contracts

### True-False

7. The CLPS programme involves NASA procuring missions from government entities.

8. Private enterprises are seen as beneficial for the deployment of scientific instruments.

9. NASA is the sole client for the advancements made by firms like K2 Space and Rocket Lab.

10. The focus on lunar missions eliminates the possibility of missions to other celestial bodies.

11. Blue Ring can operate using both solar electric and chemical propulsion.

12. Future missions may employ Blue Ring to identify resources on asteroids.

13. NASA's initiative aims to lower costs and broaden access to space exploration by utilising commercially

\_\_\_\_\_.

14. The CLPS programme intends to procure missions from private companies that develop

\_\_\_\_\_ and orbiters.

15. Future missions may see Blue Ring being employed to place multiple small satellites to identify

\_\_\_\_\_ on asteroids.



16. Many suggest that a similar approach could facilitate the deployment of scientific \_\_\_\_\_ across various destinations.

17. NASA's focus on 'block buys' may streamline the \_\_\_\_\_ process for upcoming lunar missions.

18. Key players in the CLPS programme include Firefly Aerospace, Intuitive Machines, Astrobotic, and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. To lower costs and broaden access to space exploration 2. NASA 3. Jeff Bezos 4. capabilities 5. A high-powered spacecraft 6. Bulk purchases

**True-False:** 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 4. capabilities 13. available spacecraft 14. landers 15. resources 16. instruments 17. procurement 18. Blue Origin

## CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL6

## POST TAG

1. C2
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. Level 6
5. NASA
6. satellites
7. space

## Tags

1. C2
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
4. Level 6
5. NASA
6. satellites
7. space

## Date Created

2026/05/21



**Author**  
aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM