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**Subject:** Update on the Agency's Artemis Activities  
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**To:**

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## Message from the Administrator

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### Update on the Agency's Artemis Activities



Click on the image above to watch the People of Artemis video.

Following a court decision last week to uphold NASA's selection of SpaceX to develop and demonstrate a modern human lunar lander, I joined NASA leadership today to share some updates for early Artemis missions at the Moon.

The decision by a federal court on Nov. 4 paves the way for progress on the Artemis program. Right now, NASA is making solid progress at Kennedy toward the Artemis I launch. We have completed stacking of the Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft. A series of tests are underway before wet dress rehearsal in January and a targeted launch in February.

We know Artemis is ambitious. After taking a good look under the hood over the last six months, there still is much work ahead to ensure long-term lunar exploration is a success.

Today, NASA is committing to an updated Orion development cost of \$9.3 billion from Fiscal Year 2012 through the first crewed flight test no later

shown from fiscal year 2012 through the first crewed flight test no later than May 2024. These updated cost and schedule estimates for the Orion Program, through Artemis II, are the result of an increase in the scope of the demonstration from the original baseline and other factors, including delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our teams need time to speak with SpaceX about the Human Landing System. The loss of nearly seven months due to litigation has pushed the first human landing to likely no earlier than 2025. However, this crewed landing will be preceded by an uncrewed landing on the Moon sometime before. This update does not affect later Artemis mission schedules and lunar surface plans, including the Gateway development and lunar surface activities around the late 2020s.

Artemis II will be an incredible achievement for NASA – and for humankind. It will take astronauts farther into space than ever before. But as a government agency and the global leader in exploration, it is our responsibility to be open and transparent with our NASA family and the public. Agency leadership is making it crystal clear NASA's operations and those of our commercial partners must improve.

We have taken several steps to better position the agency and the Artemis program for success. These measures include:

Creating two separate mission directorates – the Space Operations Mission Directorate and the Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate – to ensure these critical areas have a focused oversight team in place to support and execute for mission success;

Looking at how we can streamline SLS production and operations by consolidating multiple SLS contracts into a single production and operations contract; and

Leveraging the speed and innovation of the commercial sector as we move forward with developing the Moon to Mars architecture. For example, the agency released a draft request for proposal in July to solicit proposals from industry to provide spacesuits. Under the services model, industry will be accountable for the design, development, qualification, and production of spacesuits and support equipment to meet the needs of the International Space Station and Artemis programs.

There's a lot of work to do to improve our processes for the long-term sustainability these missions will require. Our commitment is to maintain open and transparent lines of communication.

Among our strengths continue to be the capabilities and of dedication of the NASA family. Each of us is helping to lead in a new era of discovery and prepare humans to go back to the Moon – and beyond.

Bill Nelson

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