

**Jon N. Cowart**  
**Partner Manager**  
**NASA's Commercial Crew Program**  
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Jon N. Cowart is working with Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) during the agency's Commercial Crew Integrated Capability (CCiCap) initiative. Through phases with aerospace industry partners, NASA's Commercial Crew Program (CCP) is leading the nation's effort of commercial vehicle development and certification to enable the safe transportation of private citizens to and from Earth orbit and perhaps someday, NASA astronauts to and from the International Space Station and other low Earth orbit destinations. During CCiCap, SpaceX is making significant progress developing and testing its integrated Dragon spacecraft and Falcon 9 rocket combination.

During CCP's previous developmental phase, called Commercial Crew Development round 2 (CCDev2), and now during CCiCap, Cowart leads the Partner Integration Team, or PIT Crew, that works with SpaceX while it outfits refines its Falcon 9 rocket, Merlin 1D engine, and its Dragon capsule with the necessary components to support crews, and performed design and development work on their abort rocket engine. Cowart received a Group Achievement award in 2012 for his work with SpaceX during CCDev2 and a Silver Snoopy for his CCiCap work.

Prior to joining CCP, Cowart was a senior project manager for the Constellation Program. In that capacity, in 2007 he was initially responsible for all modifications to Kennedy Space Center's Launch Pad 39B, Vehicle Assembly Building and mobile launcher for the Ares I-X flight test. But in December 2008, he was chosen as the Deputy Mission Manager for Ares I-X where he was responsible for the entire Ares I-X flight test mission, which launched successfully Oct. 28, 2009.

Cowart first joined the Kennedy team in 1987 as a project engineer for space shuttle Atlantis. Since then, he has led many teams, including the International Space Station (ISS) flight 2A and 3A processing teams, the orbiter docking system team, U.S. Destiny Laboratory and airlock processing teams, and shuttle Discovery engineering team. Overall he has been responsible for five major components of the ISS.

In 1993, Cowart was one of 50 people chosen from throughout NASA to participate in the Space Station Redesign. He received the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal for that effort. In August 1995, Cowart worked on special projects for the chief engineer of NASA in Washington, D.C., including next-generation spacesuits and launch vehicle reliability.

He also held the manager position of the Orbiter Sustaining Engineering Office at Kennedy, representing the Orbiter Project Office located at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. During the recovery and investigation of the shuttle Columbia tragedy, Cowart was the NASA engineering leader of the Columbia Reconstruction Team.

Before joining NASA, Cowart was a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force assigned to the 6595th Shuttle Test Group at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. He worked as a solid rocket booster (SRB) mechanical systems and handling engineer for his first two years. He also was in charge of the first-ever stack of SRBs at Vandenberg and later was promoted to orbiter mechanical systems engineer. Cowart received the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal for his work with the shuttle program.

Cowart was born in Mobile, Ala., graduated from Tucker High School near Atlanta, and then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He graduated from Georgia Tech in 1983, earning a bachelor's in aerospace engineering and an Air Force commission as a second lieutenant.