

**SAMPLING OF COMMENTS ON NASA'S NEW COURSE
FROM MILES O'BRIEN'S TWITTER FOLLOWERS
AND FACEBOOK FRIENDS
AS OF FEBRUARY 24, 2010**

FROM FACEBOOK:

Rob Finfrock

The upcoming Falcon 9 test launch will make or break how Obama's decision is perceived by history. If it succeeds, that buys a lot of positive press for COTS... but if SpaceX suffers similar failures as it did with the first three Falcon 1 attempts, I can see a hasty retreat back to Constellation.

Nick Previsich

I think the jury is very much out, and will be for quite some time. Manned spaceflight has been a political football since its very inception, and consequently its funding & support has never been at all stable. Constellation was a great vision, but only that; after all, the Bush Administration (who proposed it) never funded it adequately. Perhaps this new approach will prove more sustainable for no other reason than the fact that there will be a broader base of private-sector support. The hard, cold truth though is that spaceflight can't ever hope for sustainability until & unless it is declared a vital national interest co-equal with defense, etc....and in my opinion it certainly should be.

Robert Oler

It is the best human spaceflight policy since JFK...deadlines and "vision" with no compelling reason are useless...it is time for folks to make money on human spaceflight and to bring to Earth the jobs of the future.

Andy Motherway

Can we get a few million to overhaul NASA PR? Please! It would be money well spent for sure. You can't trust the general public to educate themselves. You have to shove it down their throats and make them be interested. That's what the entertainment industry does. And that is what NASA needs to do.

[Derrick Tetzman](#)

I trust his decision to change NASA's direction, although I think the delivery of the new plan was a PR nightmare. We need to move the human space flight program beyond LEO, to do that we need a heavy-lift vehicle.

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I support flexible path, and perhaps creating clear benchmarks instead of a timetable would be more politically robust. The program needs a clear, overarching goal--that goal should be humans to Mars.

Perry Goodfriend

America should not be going through this exercise of putting people on Mars and back on the moon alone. This isn't the 1960s. There is no space race.

We should, however, continue contributing to ISS missions, and assist other countries in developing their peaceful space technology.

Joe Bergeron

I would like to see NASA stop having to reinvent itself every time a new party comes to power, forcing it to start from scratch after wasting billions of dollars and years of time on whatever the previous scheme was. It's shameful and ridiculous that we managed to fly the shuttle for 30 years without developing a successor system for manned space ... See Moreflight. This amazing lack of foresight will deprive of us native access to LEO for years, maybe forever.

I want to see NASA given a plan and mission and for it to be allowed to stick to it, through succeeding administrations. Who can doubt that if Johnson hadn't been elected, Apollo would have been cancelled in mid-stream too? Pick a mission. Settle on it. Stop wasting our money on one aborted plan after another.

[Elliot Holokauahi Pulham](#)

oh, and by the way, "flexible path" just means you don't know where you're going, and if you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there.

[Janet Stevens](#)

We need a vision; we need funding; we need to protect/rebuild our space superiority; and we need to understand that spending on space is good for the economy. Let's be bold, not timid.

[Homer Hickam](#)

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See the text of a recent speech I gave to the students of Embry-Riddle University here: <http://www.homerhickam.com/cgi-bin/blog.cgi?id=45>

[Anna Gunn-Golkin](#)

It... See More's great that the government wants to help out commercial space - just like jumpstarting the airlines years ago with the "air mail" service. However, let's do that in parallel with an exploration initiative - something industry can't do.

[Jon Regas](#)

IF We had funded the space program from 1970 on at TWO PERCENT of the GDP/GNP, using just the imagination of the "then" rocket scientists...we would have cures for all of our problems...more efficient batteries, better and cleaner energy sources. Motivation for students to excel at the sciences.

the great nations of earth have been the sea faring nations...so too the great nations of earth today must be space faring.

FROM TWITTER:

Answers 2 many probs, green living, alt energy, econ recovery can b a byproduct of good space program. Think 60's & Apollo

I *LOVE* NASA and favor any plan that takes humans beyond LEO as quickly as possible, just not sure if this plan will do that.

The old plan would help up repeat Apollo 11 50 years later. The new plan may get us beyond sooner.

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just like the airline industry, space should be privatized to support itself financially.

... Commercial won't explore, because there's no \$ in that >> Tell that to Elon Musk.

The future great minds of science/engineering will go into other fields. Commercial won't explore, because there's no \$ in that

I believe Obama's decisions will kill the US role in space exploration. Kids tend to be interested in things they see.

america is now phoning it in.

US has given up industrial leadership, now willing to give up intellectual leadership.

I think most of the public isn't even aware of the status of the manned space program.

like the Spanish and English before us, the US is giving up exploration. Willing to be a partner, not a leader.

I think 1 thing that makes Pres's new vision crit. is it puts focus on being and doing things in space, not just getting there

obviously, the new face of NASA should be Apolo Ohno!

given the unbound potential of human ingenuity and industry – Obama's new NASA plan Could be a stroke of genius IMHO.

I always like support for the science directorate. But to promote sci literacy, need to capture people's imaginations. To do that, we need Firsts, and /some/ plan for manned spaceflight is integral to providing Firsts to capture the imagination.

Never had a chance of making Mars or even Moon with current level of motivation. Knew it when Bush said it. This plan realistic

I love Obama's proposal for NASA, evokes early days of air travel – prvt competition in access to space revolutionary.

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NASA's job isn't inspiration and education, it's to *do* the things that inspire and educate.

Ask Astros why they joined NASA. Almost all say THE MOON. NASA can inspire students, Ed Dept CAN'T. THAT ALONE is worth the \$\$.

it's better than the same old same old – which is what Constellation was. Let's start to dream again not reliving the 60s