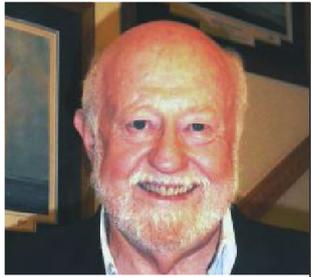


PROFILE/22
GUY THOMAS
CO-FOUNDER,
C-SIGMA



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KVH Sees 'Largely Untapped' Maritime Market

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ViaSat Takes Aim at Air and Sea Broadband

ViaSat is pitching its next Ka-band satellite for maritime and aeronautical use in the Atlantic as well as an addition to its existing U.S. consumer broadband business. *See story, page 10*

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ESA's Shrunken Budget Bigger than It Seems

The 4 percent decline in the European Space Agency's top-line budget for 2014 masks a continued upward trend in spending by many of its member nations. *See story, page 5*

Closeout Work Begins on Shelved Space Battery

Lockheed Martin Space Systems is shrinking a team of 140 down to 25 now that NASA has canceled work on the Advanced Stirling Radioisotope Generator. *See story, page 9*

ESA Says It Won't Be Penalized for Galileo Delay

Because the European Commission did not sign an industrial contract with ESA for its Galileo work, the agency won't be penalized for a one-year launch delay. *See story, page 5*

MILITARY SPACE

DARPA Chief: Space Programs Too Slow, Costly

The U.S. Defense Department's space program risks being rendered "ineffective" because of high costs and lengthy development cycles, DARPA's director warns. *See story, page 8*

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PERIODICALS-NEWSPAPER HANDLING

Omnibus Spending Bill Provides \$700 Million Increase for NASA



DAN LEONE, WASHINGTON

NASA's Commercial Crew Program is getting its largest annual budget allocation to date in an omnibus spending bill for 2014 that provides \$17.6 billion overall for the space agency, which is about \$100 million below the White House's request but roughly \$700 million more than the agency's sequestered 2013 budget.

The \$1.1 trillion Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2014 (H.R. 3547), which funds all federal activities for the remainder of fiscal year 2014, also extends by three years the legal regime that shields U.S. commercial launch services providers from damage claims that exceed \$500 million, and continues a prohibition against spending any NASA appropriations on bilateral cooperation with the Chinese government or Chinese companies.

The omnibus spending measure, representing a compromise hammered out in December that provides some relief from the across-the-board budget cuts known as sequestration, passed the House Jan. 15 and the Senate Jan. 16. At press time, the measure was awaiting U.S. President Barack Obama's signature.

The bill provides \$696 million

for NASA's effort to spur private-sector development of crew transportation services to and from the international space station, the biggest allocation yet for an effort of which many lawmakers have long been skeptical. But the allocation is still considerably less than the \$821 million sought by Obama and also comes with a string attached: \$171 million of the funds would be held in reserve until NASA completes an independent cost-benefit analysis of the program. That would temporarily keep the program funded at about \$525 million, the same level it got in 2013.

Even before it was passed by the House and Senate, the bill drew a positive reaction from the White House, which in recent years has been at loggerheads with Congress over NASA spending priorities.

The NASA portion of the budget "looks pretty darn good," Rich DalBello, assistant director for aeronautics and space at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, said Jan. 14 during a panel discussion at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics' Science and Technology Forum at National Harbor, Md. "Important ... things seem to have been protected, and that's positive because that means we're on the same page with Congress. And in this town that's

always a complicated undertaking."

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, in a Jan. 14 message to agency employees, called the bill a "vote of confidence" that reaffirms bipartisan congressional support for space exploration. "The bill keeps NASA's deep space exploration program (the Space Launch System and Orion) on track and provides funding to formulate the agency's Asteroid Redirect Mission, an important stepping stone on the path to Mars," he said.

But the bipartisan measure still reflects many of the concerns Congress has expressed about the White House's direction for NASA.

For example, in the report accompanying the bill, lawmakers continued to prod NASA about its plan to capture a small asteroid with a robotic spacecraft and store the rock in a distant lunar retrograde orbit for a visit by astronauts sometime next decade. The report urged the agency not to commit to the mission before more thoroughly vetting it with the relevant NASA oversight committees in Congress.

"NASA has not provided Congress with satisfactory justification materials such as detailed cost estimates or impacts to ongoing missions," lawmakers said of the proposed Asteroid Redirect

SEE NASA PAGE 7

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