

Budget cuts could slow commercial space progress

March 28 2013



This image released by NASA shows the SpaceX Dragon capsule in orbit around Earth. The unmanned capsule splashed down in the Pacific on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 after a supply run to the International Space Station. (AP Photo/NASA)

The head of NASA says federal spending cuts could eventually slow progress on commercial efforts to fly to space.

[NASA Administrator](#) Charles Bolden sounded the warning Thursday two days after SpaceX's Dragon capsule returned from a supply run to the

[International Space Station](#) with a splashdown in the Pacific.

Bolden says there's no significant impact to the commercial space program this fiscal year, but automatic budget cuts could affect how much the space agency can dole out to private companies down the road. With the shuttles retired, NASA is relying on private enterprise to fly cargo and eventually astronauts to the orbiting lab.

The latest [SpaceX](#) trip started off with a mechanical problem. CEO Elon Musk says engineers have found the cause and says it won't happen again.

Copyright 2013 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Budget cuts could slow commercial space progress (2013, March 28) retrieved 30 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2013-03-commercial-space.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.