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Boeing Test Pilot Astronaut & CST-100 Starliner Director of Crew and Mission Systems Boeing's Commercial Crew Program

As Boeing's first commercial test pilot astronaut, Christopher J. Ferguson will be among the first to fly to space aboard the CST-100 Starliner – a system that is on a course to open up space to more people than ever before. Ferguson is uniquely qualified to pilot the Starliner on its maiden flight to the International Space Station, having led the development of the spacecraft's mission systems and crew interfaces.

Since the beginning of Boeing's Commercial Crew Program in 2011, Ferguson has worked with NASA's Human Exploration and Operations Directorate; Johnson Space Center's Engineering, Flight Crew and Mission Operations organizations; and NASA's Commercial Crew Program at Kennedy Space Center to ensure Boeing's design supports NASA's human rating requirements. He also played a key leadership role in the development and testing of system concepts and key technologies for the spacecraft's launch and ground systems.

The development of a safe, reliable and cost-effective solution for crew transportation to and from the International Space Station will allow the on-orbit research facility to continue to fulfill its promise as a world-class laboratory. With NASA as the anchor customer, Boeing's Starliner is setting the foundation for commercial passenger flights to and from low-Earth orbit destinations, to include international astronauts, scientists and even tourists.

A retired U.S. Navy captain and former NASA astronaut, Ferguson piloted STS-115 (Atlantis) and commanded STS-126 (Endeavour) and the final shuttle mission, STS-135 (Atlantis). He has logged more than 40 days in space and 5,700 hours in high-performance aircraft. He also served as deputy chief of the NASA Astronaut Office and was spacecraft communicator (CAPCOM) for the STS-118, STS-120, STS-128 and STS-129 missions. His experience in crew communications, both on orbit and in the CAPCOM role, is a strong asset to Boeing and the Starliner team.

Ferguson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Drexel University and a Master of Science degree in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School. He has been recognized with numerous service awards, including the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Strike/Flight Air Medal, NASA Spaceflight Medal (three), Navy Commendation Medal (three) and the Navy Achievement Medal.

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