



Kathy Lueders

Kathy Lueders was named associate administrator for NASA's Space Operations Mission Directorate on Sept. 21, 2021. She was selected by former NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine to lead the Human Exploration and Operations (HEO) Mission Directorate June 12, 2020. Lueders assumed her current role when the agency announced in September 2021 it would separate HEO into two different directorates: Space Operations as well a new Exploration Systems Development (ESD). Lueders is working closely with the ESD team as the agency organizes its exploration programs to preposition NASA for the next 20 years.

Since 2014, Lueders has directed NASA's efforts to send astronauts to space on private spacecraft, which culminated in the successful launch of Demo-2 from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on May 30, 2020.

Lueders began her NASA career in 1992 at the White Sands Test Facility in New Mexico, where she was the Shuttle Orbital Maneuvering System and Reaction Control Systems Depot manager. She later moved to the International Space Station Program and served as transportation integration manager, where she led commercial cargo resupply services to the space station.

She also was responsible for NASA oversight of international partner spacecraft visiting the space station, including the European Space Agency's Automated Transfer Vehicle, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's H-II Transfer Vehicle, and the Russian space agency Roscosmos' Soyuz and Progress spacecraft. She went to Kennedy as acting Commercial Crew program manager in 2013 and was selected as the head of the office in 2014.

Lueders has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the University of New Mexico and a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Industrial Engineering from New Mexico State University.