



Piers Sellers

S.S. Piers Sellers

NG-17 Cargo Delivery Mission to the International Space Station

Northrop Grumman is proud to name the NG-17 Cygnus spacecraft in honor of astronaut Piers Sellers. It is the company's tradition to name each Cygnus spacecraft after an individual who has played a pivotal role in human spaceflight. Sellers was selected in honor of his role in assembling the International Space Station and his contributions as a climate scientist.

A native of Crowborough, Sussex, England, Sellers was born in 1955 and later trained as a Royal Air Force cadet. He received a bachelor's degree in ecological science and a PhD in biometeorology from the University of Edinburgh and the University of Leeds, respectively.

His 30-year NASA career began in 1982 when Sellers moved to the United States to join the research team at Goddard Spaceflight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. In 1986, as a research meteorologist, he created the Simple Biosphere Model—the first model to realistically simulate the interaction of global photosynthesis and Earth's climate.

After working for 14 years as a NASA scientist, Sellers achieved a childhood dream and joined NASA's astronaut corps in 1996. He helped complete construction of the Space Station during the STS-112, STS-121 and STS-132 missions, logging nearly 35 days and 41 extravehicular activity hours during six spacewalks.

Sellers retired as an astronaut in 2011 and returned to Goddard as the deputy director of the Science and Exploration Directorate. In 2016, he received NASA's Distinguished Service Medal, the agency's highest honor, before passing away later that year at the age of 61 after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

Northrop Grumman is honored to name its next Cygnus spacecraft in celebration of the life and legacy of astronaut Piers Sellers.