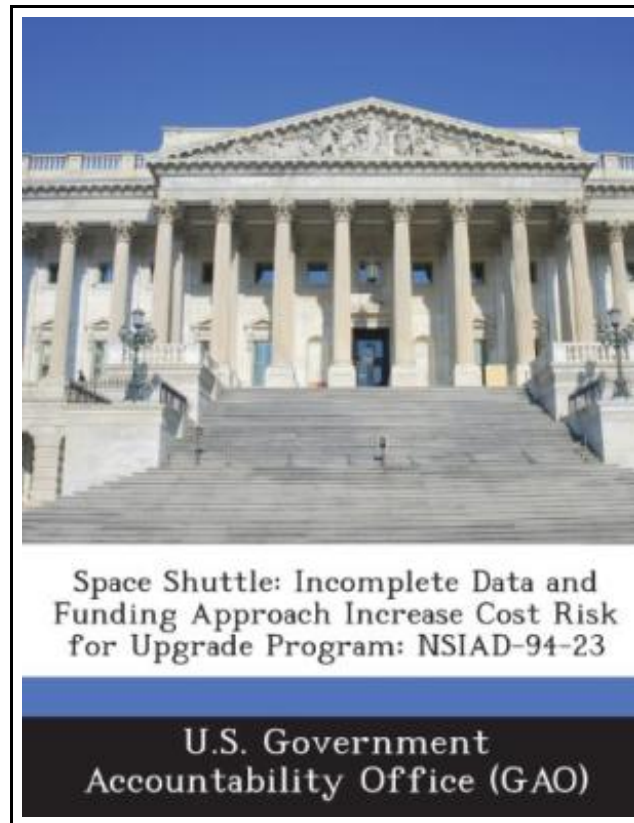


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BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 40 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. Pursuant to a congressional request, GAO reviewed the National Aeronautics and Space Administrations (NASA) Space Shuttle program, focusing on NASA: (1) assumptions regarding the length of time the current Shuttle fleet will remain operational; and (2) processes and criteria for selecting needed safety and obsolescence upgrades. GAO found that: (1) NASA has not made explicit assumptions about the current Shuttle fleets operational status, but NASA budget projections and the new launch system approach suggest that the fleet cannot be replaced for at least another 12 to 15 years; (2) NASA does not plan to decide on a Shuttle replacement, which will take 7 to 10 years to develop, until at least 1998; (3) NASA has concluded that the best option is to develop a fully reusable single-stage-to-orbit launch vehicle fleet and phase out Shuttle use by 2008; (4) the NASA budget cannot simultaneously support development of the Space Station and a new launch system; (5) NASA does not always consider life-cycle cost as a criterion for evaluating potential safety upgrades or alternative approaches when selecting improvements; (6) NASA managers do not have a precise basis for estimating life-cycle costs because of the uncertainty about how long the current fleet will be operational, but NASA could use the 12-to-15-year operational period as a minimum basis for estimating life-cycle costs; and (7) the NASA approach to funding its shuttle upgrade program could increase program risks because of inadequate funding for approved upgrade projects, early design studies of other improvements, and unforeseen contingencies. This item ships from La Vergne, TN. Paperback.



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