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UNPRECEDENTED PROSPECTS FOR ISS UTILIZATION

Abstract

Astrium has been participating to the International Space Station ISS since its beginning with space infrastructure, logistics and instrumentation. The support of scientific research has been the highest priority for the operation of the European Columbus since its launch in 2008. Now, after reaching the assembly complete status, and with the commitment of a continued operation at least until 2020, ISS offers unprecedented possibilities as a platform for unlimited activities in low earth orbit. The presentation will focus on the successful research which has been performed so far, on the lessons learned and on new ideas for optimization. Furthermore new ISS applications, making use of the existing ISS facilities shall be presented for the preparation of a human exploration program as well as for topics in earth observation and climate research.