

HUMAN SPACE ENDEAVOURS SYMPOSIUM (B3)
ISS Utilisation (3)

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTLOOK OF THE ISS UTILISATION PROGRAMME OF THE
EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Abstract

The launch and installation of ESA's Columbus research module on the ISS as the permanent European laboratory in space has been an extremely important step for Europe and the overall ISS programme. With the initial suite of research infrastructure outfitting, the permanent 6-crew availability and the deployment for further major ESA payloads and their accommodation in the Columbus and ISS partner labs the European ISS utilisation programme has already made significant progress and produced invaluable scientific data and results. These continuous ISS research advancements throughout the broad area of Life and Physical Sciences as well as for Human Exploration preparation and Technology demonstration is a strong asset and the continuously high interest of the European user community and their international collaboration with other scientists is a strong justification for the extension of the ISS exploitation to 2020 and beyond. The paper will give a comprehensive overview on the latest European research achievements. Further an outlook will be given on ESA's long-term utilisation strategy for ISS and the perspectives of international research cooperation.