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FUTURE PLANETARY ROBOTIC EXPLORATION AND THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION: THE IAA HEADS OF AGENCIES STUDY REPORT

Abstract

In 2010 the International Academy of Astronautics commissioned studies in four areas of space exploration that are already benefitting from international collaborations among space agencies, to evaluate ways in which increased cooperation could further enhance the efforts of each spacefaring nation and humankind as a whole. In this talk the authors will review some of the highlights of the first half-century of robotic exploration of the solar system, a period that began in a spirit of competition between the world's first two spacefaring nations, the USA and the former USSR, but that ended with increasing collaboration between and among the space agencies of many nations. The IAA study identified five areas in which further collaboration could yield even greater dividends in the decades ahead. They were presented at the IAA-sponsored Heads of Agencies Summit in Washington, DC, USA, in November 2010. The findings of the IAA study group on robotic exploration of the solar system will be presented at the 62nd IAC symposium.