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GLOBAL SPACE EXPLORATION POLICIES AND PLANS: INSIGHTS FROM DEVELOPING ISECG
ROADMAP

Abstract

The International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) was established in response to “The Global Exploration Strategy: The Framework for Coordination” developed by fourteen space agencies . This GES Framework Document recognizes that preparing for human space exploration is a stepwise process, starting with basic knowledge and culminating in a sustained human presence in space. Robotic exploration is considered an important component of expanding human presence in space in order to increase the knowledge of future destinations, take steps to reduce risks to human explorers, and ensure the human missions can deliver maximum scientific discoveries. The ISECG enables interested agencies to develop the products considered important to inform their individual decision making, enabling decisions to be made in a coordinated manner.

In developing the Global Exploration Roadmap , participating agencies have further elaborated the vision introduced in the GES and demonstrated their intention to maximize partnership opportunities in order to enable sustainable human exploration beyond low Earth orbit. They see the roadmap as a tool in facilitating this coordination and cooperation. They also recognize that the long-term nature of human exploration endeavors necessitates identification and discussion of strategic considerations which affect their desire for an international human exploration effort. Participating agencies feel these considerations are important to understand and seek agreement on early in the conceptual formulation effort.

Agencies have shared the status of their programs and plans as they pertain to space exploration. In doing so, they share insights into existing and emerging policies within their nations. Understanding these policies and plans, common elements, and common trends is important to ultimately reaching the necessary strategic consensus. This paper will review the status and common trends within ISECG participating agencies which have affected development of the first iteration of the Global Exploration Roadmap. It will discuss the common strategies and findings as they pertain to ISECG’s foundational work advancing the GES.