

HUMAN SPACE ENDEAVOURS SYMPOSIUM (B3)
Sustainable Operation of the ISS - Joint Session of the Human Space Endeavours and Space Operations
Symposia (4-B6.5)

Author: Dr. Regina Mosenkis
EADS Astrium Space Transportation GmbH, Germany, regina.mosenkis@airbus.com

Mr. Massimo Cislighi
ESA, The Netherlands, massimo.cislighi@esa.int
Mr. Victor Blagov
Korolev RSC Energia, Russian Federation, victor.blagov@sfoc.ru

ATV MISSIONS - 15 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Abstract

The Automated Transfer Vehicle (ATV) is a European logistics vehicle that has supplied the International Space Station (ISS) through three successful missions as of today. It is a shining example of the fruitful cooperation between the European, American and Russian partners of the ISS. During more than 15 years of cooperation covering development and operations, all parties have learned from each other to our mutual benefit.

Behind the smooth operations that have been repeatedly demonstrated to the outside world, there has been a complex interaction between design and operations teams that has not always been easy, but has developed over time to the point where mission preparation and execution is becoming almost routine. Starting from ATV-3, the interval between launches of roughly 1 year is even shorter than originally thought. This is only possible due to the efficient interaction between different forums involved in this complex process.

This paper will briefly recall the history of the development and focus on the established means of working together now in place. The main accent will be on the European cooperation with the Russian side, whose role has been essential both for the ATV system design and the ISS /ATV joint operations.