

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS VIRTUAL FORUMS (YPVF)  
Human Space Endeavours Young Professionals Virtual Forum (HSE) (2)

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SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE: THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION: THE PRESENT AND THE  
PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

**Abstract**

Two of the most fundamental shifts occurring in human space exploration today are difficult to see. One is visible in the night sky if you look in just the right place at the right time, and the other is visible in meeting rooms around the world. Both, however, are making their presence felt on and off the planet. The International Space Station and the ISS Partnership are space exploration as it has never been done before: a permanent, sustained, and planned multilateral effort spanning decades. At the end of 2012, we have the ship that will teach us how to get out into the Solar System as well as the management, and more importantly the reason and the will, to take us there.