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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION (IAF) GLOBAL NETWORKING FORUM "OFF THE EARTH, FOR THE EARTH – THE NEXT STEPS IN HUMAN AND ROBOTIC SPACE EXPLORATION"

Abstract

This paper presents a summary of the discussions held in the context of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) Global Networking Forum entitled "Off the Earth, For the Earth – The next steps in human space exploration" that took place on 19 March 2013 in Paris (France).

Building on the successful Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX) held in Washington DC (Unites States) on 22-24 May 2012, this IAF event reflected on the achievements of the International Space Station (ISS) and other successful human and robotic spaceflight programmes. Distinguished high-level speakers from spacefaring organisations throughout the world representing space agencies from North America, Europe and Asia as well established and new space companies from these regions took part to the event.

Themes of discussions considered the global objectives, research and technology priorities and benefits of the next phases of space exploration in creating relationships and returns to the Earth. Perspectives on the goals, the challenges ahead, and the value of the investments being made to explore space in and beyond low earth orbit were also outlined.