

HUMAN SPACE ENDEAVOURS SYMPOSIUM (B3)
Space Stations and Human Spacecraft Utilization (4)

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INCREMENT 18 PAYLOAD INTEGRATION ON THE ISS: EUROPEAN EXPERIENCES AND
CONCEPTS

Abstract

On the 7th of February 2008, the Space Shuttle Atlantis brought the European laboratory Columbus 350 km above the Earth, where it was successfully docked to the International Space Station (ISS). After its on-orbit commissioning in increments 16 and 17, Europe slowly started to prepare the laboratory for its scientific utilisation.

Increment 18 was planned to be the first increment focused on Columbus utilisation, but soon turned into a mix of science, engineering, upgrades and maintenance activities. Since this is expected to be the normal case for the next increments, the authors proposed to document these experiences in the subject paper.

This paper presents the European experiences gained during the increment 18 payload integration preparation for ISS. In addition, it addresses a number of recommendations for future increments payload integration.