HUMAN SPACE ENDEAVOURS SYMPOSIUM (B3)
ISS Operations and Utilization (3)

Author: Dr. Igor V. Sorokin
S.P. Korolev Rocket and Space Corporation Energia, Russian Federation, igor.v.sorokin@gmail.com

Mr. Alexander Markov
S.P. Korolev Rocket and Space Corporation Energia, Russian Federation, Alexander.V.Markov@rsce.ru

SCIENTIFIC POTENTIAL OF RUSSIAN MINI RESEARCH MODULES OF THE ISS

Abstract

Assembly of the United States on-Orbit Segment (USOS) of the International Space Station (ISS), including all International Partners' components, is now virtually complete with all core elements successfully integrated and functionally verified on-orbit. Remaining Space Shuttle flights will preposition critical systems spares and complete outfitting of research facilities. At the same time construction of the ISS Russian Segment (ISS RS) is still under way. The newest Mini Research Modules (MRM) *Poisk* (MRM2) and *Rassvet* (MRM1) have became integral parts of the ISS in 2009-2010 and process of the ISS RS assembly will be continued. Despite a word "mini" presence in the modules' official names both of them are important ISS elements serves not only as docking compartments and/or airlocks for extravehicular activity support, but provides new capabilities for the existing and new research facilities accommodation. This paper explores Mini Research Modules' role as integrated elements of the ISS, unveils their scientific potential and prospective of utilization. Full success of the ISS program depends on the particular utilization achievements in the coming years.