

HUMAN EXPLORATION OF THE MOON AND MARS SYMPOSIUM (A5)
Going Beyond the Earth-Moon system: Human Missions to Mars, Libration points, and NEO's (4)

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AN INTEGRATED ARCHITECTURE FOR EXPLORATION

Abstract

The President's FY2011 budget cancels the Constellation program to return to the moon, go on to Mars and beyond. In its place is a new strategy called "Flexible Path" for NASA to develop technology to enable human exploration missions to the Moon, Lagrange points, near Earth Asteroids, Mars Moons and Mars. This has re-opened age old debates in exploration circles: • Robotic versus Human missions • Science versus Exploration • Moon versus Mars • Government versus Commercial • United States versus International

The Augustine Committee reported that none of the alternatives reviewed were affordable in the current budget. Is the new strategy affordable and sustainable? This paper will address some of these issues and propose a way forward that achieves the common goals of whether it is called Flexible Path or Vision for Space Exploration.