

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
SPACE WORKFORCE DEVELOPEMENT – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES (7)

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THE U.S. HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT WORKFORCE

Abstract

The amazing achievement of assembling the International Space Station is nearly complete. It is the start of what promises to be a productive and innovative time for orbital research and capability demonstration. However, completion of ISS assembly also marks the retirement of the Space Shuttle Program which impacts the aerospace industry and begins a significant transition. NASA will address both near-term issues with this transition and the longer-term challenge of ensuring that the human spaceflight team remains innovative, dynamic, and capable. NASA is asking the Shuttle workforce – both civil servants and contractors – to stay through the end of the Shuttle program to safely complete the last mission. It is also critical that the team that comes out of the transition is a team that can take the experiences in space flight and hardware that were applied in space station assembly and apply these skills to future spaceflight programs.