

HUMAN SPACE ENDEAVOURS SYMPOSIUM (B3)
Overview Session (Present and Near-Term Human Space Flight Programs) (1)

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INTERNATIONAL SPACE EXPLORATION COORDINATION GROUP - THE GLOBAL
EXPLORATION ROADMAP

Abstract

The International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) was established in response to “The Global Exploration Strategy: The Framework for Coordination” developed by fourteen space agencies and released in May 2007. This GES Framework Document recognizes that preparing for human space exploration is a stepwise process, starting with basic knowledge and culminating in a sustained human presence in space.

As reported at the IAC 2010 in the paper on the “Development Status of the Global Exploration Roadmap” (iac-10b3.1.10), senior agency managers representing agencies contributing to ISECG have agreed to develop the first version of the Global Exploration Roadmap (GER) by mid 2011. The first version of the Global Exploration Roadmap demonstrates the commitment of agencies to develop and implement a coordinated strategy which enables realization of the vision outlined in the Global Exploration Strategy (GES). It reflects in particular their shared belief that human exploration missions beyond LEO will be international and that the time to start planning for this future is now as agencies are preparing to take important decisions linked to their role in enabling space exploration as part of a global effort. These decisions affect new activities to be performed onboard the ISS, as well as investments which enable the next phase of space exploration. The Global Exploration Roadmap is non-binding, but expected to serve as important input to individual agency decision making, enabling agencies to assess their near-term investments in view of their future role in and contribution to a long term global exploration endeavor.

This paper will introduce the next steps for global exploration as derived from the work on the 1st version of the Global Exploration Roadmap. Next steps have been derived from

- The development of common goals for the different exploration destinations;
- The analysis of current agency and private sector exploration activities and plans, including for robotic exploration missions, exploration technology and capability development as well as utilisation of ISS for exploration;

- The development and evaluation of optional global exploration mission scenarios enabling the phased transition from human operations in Low Earth Orbit and utilization of ISS to human missions beyond LEO leading ultimately to human missions to the cis-lunar space, Moon, Near Earth Asteroids, Mars and its environs

For more information on the ISECG please consult the ISECG website at www.globalspaceexploration.org or contact the ISECG Secretariat at: isecg@esa.int.