

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

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THE VALUE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE EXPLORATION COORDINATION GROUP
(ISECG) IN THE FORMULATION OF EXPLORATION CONCEPT AND PARTNERSHIPS

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. The Global Exploration Strategy recognizes that preparing for human space exploration is a stepwise process, starting with basic knowledge and culminating in a sustained human presence in space. The purpose of ISECG is to advance the Global Exploration Strategy by providing a forum where interested agencies can share their objectives and plans, explore concepts that reflect synergies, and develop products which enable agencies to coordinate their investments. As ISECG is not a governance body, its products inform the individual decision making of its participating agencies. In this way, agencies can consider their role in an emerging global scenario and invest in ways which best prepare themselves. ISECG operates in accordance with the key principles set out in the Global Exploration Strategy – Open and Inclusive; Flexible and Evolutionary; Effective; and Mutual Interest. In this way, participating agencies gain insights which are useful to their near term decision making and long term strategy formulation.

Since its inception, ISECG has focused on developing timely products which serve its member in informing near term decisions. The ISECG Reference Architecture for Human Lunar Exploration was developed to inform the lunar exploration plans of several agencies. Examples of how this product influenced agency decision making will be reviewed and are listed below:

- NASA Constellation Program requirements development,
- CSA investments in analog activities related to surface exploration,
- Joint CNES and DLR Report on Exploration
- JAXA and ESA lunar exploration studies.

Currently, the ISECG’s work on the Global Exploration Roadmap is serving to identify opportunities for near term collaborations in technology demonstration, robotic precursor missions and terrestrial analog activities. Through its work on the Global Exploration Roadmap, ISECG products will be useful in the near future to inform the creation of future international cooperative human space exploration scenarios. This paper will review the products of ISECG and discuss how they have enabled participating agencies to make individual decisions informed by the emerging global scenarios. It will look forward to the role ISECG can play in determining the shape and nature of partnerships to implement the

challenging international space exploration missions of the future. For more information on the ISECG please consult the ISECG website at www.globalspaceexploration.org or contact the ISECG Secretariat at: isecg@esa.int.