

SPACE OPERATIONS SYMPOSIUM (B6)
Human Spaceflight Operations (1)

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INCREMENT PREPARATION AND EXECUTION AT COLUMBUS CONTROL CENTER

Abstract

The Columbus laboratory is Europe's largest contribution made by the European Space Agency to the International Space Station programme. It supports scientific and technological research in a microgravity environment.

While the operations onboard ISS in general and Columbus in particular are long term, their preparation and execution cannot be separated as such. Therefore the *expedition/increment* time scale was introduced to allow a proper management of these operations. At Col-CC, a dedicated team (*increment team*), consisting of flight control team members from each discipline, management representatives and other experts, is mandated with overseeing the successful increment implementation. This paper discusses the process of its constitution, programmatic setup and dedicated preparatory tasks that are carried out by this increment team prior to the start of the increment. It also discusses in detail the operation coordination performed by this team with the rest of International partners and internally within ESA during the increment and outline its post increment tasks as well. We also briefly describe challenges and scope of improvement in achieving increment requirements efficiently within the existing set up.