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AN OVERVIEW OF CURRENT AND UPCOMING ISECG ACTIVITIES

Abstract

The International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) is the international forum in which participating space agencies coordinate their mutual efforts in space exploration to advance “The Global Exploration Strategy: The Framework for Coordination”, which was developed by fourteen space agencies(1) and released in May 2007. As a non-binding coordination forum, the ISECG provides an important opportunity for agencies to discuss their exploration program plans and objectives, coordinate planning activities, and develop timely and relevant products to further human space exploration. The ISECG Global Exploration Roadmap (GER) is an important product that reflects the status of on-going agency discussions regarding future planning for human exploration beyond low Earth orbit. The GER has been updated this year as a result of changes in the international context. Supporting the human exploration road-mapping activity, the ISECG catalogues analogue sites helping to identify and coordinate analogue deployments; looks at existing and future missions and identifies critical knowledge gaps and proposed relevant measurements to close these; assesses individual technology development interests and priorities of the participating agencies to facilitate leveraging investments in technology development efforts supporting implementation of the future exploration missions. ISECG also leads multilateral reference mission and architecture definition work identifying interfaces that could benefit from standardization, identifying critical functions and necessary technology, and sharing innovative architectural concepts. It also leads an evaluation process that validates that architectures enable, and are traceable to, a set of common ISECG goals and objectives. To support an expected future political forum, the ISECG has

also shared information regarding how exploration benefits humanity. ISECG summarizes its activities through its website and with a report produced annually. This paper will provide an overview and status of ongoing ISECG activities and provide an outlook of the near-term plans for future work of this group.

(1) In alphabetical order: ASI (Italy), BNSC – now UKSA (United Kingdom), CNES (France), CNSA (China), CSA (Canada), CSIRO (Australia), DLR (Germany), ESA (European Space Agency), ISRO (India), JAXA (Japan), KARI (Republic of Korea), NASA (United States of America), NSAU (Ukraine), Roscosmos (Russia). “Space Agencies” refers to government organizations responsible for space activities.