

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

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THE RUSSIAN HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT PROGRAM: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HORIZONS

Abstract

The Russian human spaceflight program is focused currently on the International Space Station (ISS) utilization, providing, at the same time, crew and cargo transportation capabilities to all the ISS Program partners. Construction of the ISS Russian Segment (ISS RS) is still under way. Multipurpose Laboratory Module, which is targeted for the station in December 2013, will be the largest Russian laboratory on ISS. The next step in this process is connected to launching and integration on the ISS RS two more new modules: Node module and Scientific-Power Module. All of them will provide new capabilities for accommodation of existing and next-generation research facilities. The ISS laboratory is providing a unique environment for research and international collaboration that benefits humankind. Benefits come from the engineering development, the international partnership, and from the research results. On the other part, the ISS is considered as a testbed for technology development and demonstrations for the benefit of human space exploration beyond low Earth orbit (LEO). This perspective has triggered a process of the New Generation Crewed Vehicle development in Russia, which is designed to enable human missions beyond LEO with use of a new launcher and a new launch site on Russia's Far East. New version of Russian Federal Space Program (2015-2025) provides for an active position of Russia in human exploration activities beyond LEO on the basis of long-term strategic international partnership. This paper provides an overview of recent accomplishments, current plans and challenges, and also new horizons of the Russian human spaceflight program.