

## HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT SYMPOSIUM (B3)

Flight & Ground Operations of HSF Systems – Joint Session of the Human Spaceflight and Space Operations Symposia (4-B6.5)

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## COMMERCIAL UTILIZATION OF EUROPEAN ISS ELEMENTS

**Abstract**

The International Space Station (ISS) is a reliable space system of great value to the research community. It can be used for long time with high benefits to the user community. Airbus DS together with partners proposes to take the next step in the evolution of ISS and its sustainable utilization. A new way of utilizing and operating ISS is discussed, focused on the Columbus module as the European element: easy to use, with short lead times and highly efficient for a variety of use cases. These envisaged use cases go far beyond the existing micro gravity research, which is one of the main focus of the research performed in Columbus today - instead, it is proposed to enhance the utilization of the the International Space Station as testbed for future Post ISS missions, in order to prepare new technologies and partnerships during a transition phase towards further commercial exploitation of low earth orbits. This paper presents several initiatives along that path: one initiative will establish an alternative fast-track path to Columbus using a standardized payload box, the ISS Enhanced Utilization initiative and the *my<sub>b</sub>iorack*. *Bartolomeo* is a new versatile external payload hosting facility which Airbus DS and Teledyne Brown Engineering private utilization scheme with ESA and NASA.