

IAF HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT SYMPOSIUM (B3)
Commercial Human Spaceflight Programs (2)

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HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT CONTINUITY AND THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Abstract

The International Space Station (ISS) is now moving beyond its 20th year in orbit and closing in on its 19th year of permanent crew habitation. This ISS has literally changed the way the world views spaceflight and living and working in space. The ISS was built as a government space agency focused research facility serviced by government vehicles like the Soyuz and Space Shuttle. It was also created as a tool of foreign policy focused on low earth orbit (LEO) missions. Today the ISS is a research facility that is being exploited by private industry and other government research organizations across the globe. Additionally, the transportation and operations of the ISS are increasingly being conducted by private industry. NASA is also pursuing policies that will leverage the ISS Partnership to not only remain in LEO but also to expand human spaceflight to the moon. This paper will explore the current activities at NASA that are directed toward transitioning ISS and LEO as part of a broader strategy that will enable NASA to become one of many customers and to expand the ISS Partnership to the moon.