

International Cooperation for Space Exploration (1)
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INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS – CONCEPTS, CONSENSUS, PARTNERSHIPS TO PROJECTS
WITH ISECG

Abstract

The international space exploration endeavour is the result of a multifaceted interaction amongst countries and space agencies merging a diverse set of national policy drivers, exploration priorities, timelines, experiences, and funding capabilities toward a common goal. This paper will present challenges and highlight strategies towards coordinating global space exploration efforts and international partnerships by leveraging a common vision and a set of shared goals to achieve national and international exploration objectives and, ultimately, generating benefits for society.

The paper will leverage examples from new partnership activities created through the International Space Exploration and Coordination Group (ISECG), which is a voluntary, non-binding coordination forum of currently 20 space agencies. In 2018, ISECG released the latest version of the Global Exploration Roadmap (GER), reflecting an integrated exploration vision created from the policies and plans of 14 independent ISECG space agencies. The GER reflects the work of a collaborative space agency effort for planning missions beyond low-Earth orbit, beginning with the International Space Station and continuing to the vicinity of the Moon and its surface, focused on the long-term goal of sending humans to the surface of Mars in a sustainable manner.

To further advance international collaboration in space exploration, ISECG generates a number of reports and products that serve as tools to build consensus between space agencies, to generate support within separate agency governments and to foster a strategic approach benefiting all the participating agencies. Examples of these ISECG products and a brief overview and effect of several of the products will be described.

This paper will also present examples from initial discussions leading to conceptual agreements solidifying into funded partnerships in scientific and exploration projects exploring space with considerations to individual country budgeting approval processes. In doing so, the paper will reflect the latest space exploration plans within the international community and identify areas of further cooperation.