

IAF HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT SYMPOSIUM (B3)
Interactive Presentations - IAF HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT SYMPOSIUM (IP)

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MBRSC AND ESA COOPERATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UAE OPERATIONS
SUPPORT CENTRE

Abstract

UAE Astronaut Mission - 1 is the first human spaceflight to the International Space Station (ISS) for the United Arab Emirates. The mission is part of the National Astronaut Program launched by the United Arab Emirates leadership to prepare a generation of national astronauts to actively participate in the global endeavours of space exploration. A fundamental goal of the programme is also to contribute to the efforts of the international space community on a human spaceflight to Mars. In line with UAE's long term plans for economic diversification, the Program aims to develop a culture of scientific research that is in line with the country's innovation agenda, and highlights the importance of STEM subjects to future generations. UAE Astronaut Mission - 1 was carried out as an international cooperation of the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Center and ROSCOSMOS, NASA, ESA, and JAXA. Specifically, MBRSC and ESA cooperated for the establishment of an Operations Support Centre (UAE OSC) in Dubai. The UAE OSC monitored operations throughout UAE Astronaut Mission - 1 and directly supported the execution of a number of on-board activities based in the Columbus module. This paper describes the infrastructure and operations concept used for the UAE OSC and provides a few considerations about ground support for future missions.