

Space Stations (9)

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INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION : MAKING THE MOST OF OUR FUTURE

Abstract

As the International Space Station (ISS) celebrates two decades of human achievement in space, it's important that the platform's value, results, and prospects for the future are clear. The international collaboration has been an unparalleled success. ISS international partnerships have added capability and enhanced international relationships for future space endeavors. A sustained ISS program offers the starting point for deep space exploration. This paper will address how the ISS is ever evolving. Topics will include: how international partners are leveraging the microgravity environment of space to revolutionize scientific disciplines serving as a test facility for medical research, technology demonstrations, and long duration analog to prepare for advanced space exploration; fundamental utilities of ISS to maintain capability to support user needs and accommodate the ever evolving advancements in science and technology development; new and improved capabilities that have enabled increased utilization and functionality; ISS expansion including a new Russian module and a commercial module on the U.S. segment are expected in the near future to support future needs and productivity. The presentation will describe and envision a more capable and thriving international laboratory - enabling groundbreaking Earth and space science, an advanced testbed for deep space exploration, and a vital hub for space commerce - clearly demonstrating that ISS continues to be a capable and valuable international asset for the next decade.