IAF HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT SYMPOSIUM (B3)
Governmental Human Spaceflight Programmes (Overview) (1)

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THE HUNGARIAN ASTRONAUT PROGRAM HUNOR

Abstract

With the spaceflight of cosmonaut Bertalan Farkas back in 1980, Hungary became the seventh nation to send an astronaut or cosmonaut into space. Bertalan Farkas was launched on the 5th of May 1980 with Soyuz 36. He performed his mission on board the Salyut-6 Soviet orbital space station in the frame of the Intercosmos programme. A set of Hungarian experiments were conducted by Bertalan Farkas in the field of space dosimetry, life science, material science, and Earth observation. Several Hungarian research and development groups and small companies were formed as a result of the mission. Several generations of the Pille instrument developed for the flight of the first Hungarian cosmonaut flew later on board the Salyut-7, the Mir and the International Space Station (ISS) and on the Space Shuttle as well. The latest version has been operating as part of dosimetry service system on the Russian Segment of the ISS since 2003. In 2021, the Government of Hungary announced the Hungarian to Orbit (HUNOR) program, the aim of which is to send the next Hungarian astronaut to the ISS for a 30-60-day-long mission in 2024. The Government of Hungary signed an agreement with US company Axiom Space to achieve this goal. The HUNOR programme is coordinated by the Centre of Energy Research, part of the Eötvös Loránd Research Network in Hungary, which has more than 50 years of heritage in space research and development of space equipment. The objectives of the HUNOR program are to conduct science and research on ISS, to foster space technology demonstration and domestic space industry development, to strengthen and create new Hungarian competences in astronautics and space life sciences and perform public outreach and education activities. Some details on the astronaut selection procedure and the Hungarian-developed technical equipment and experiments to be tested in space will be given in the talk.