Paper ID: 74736
student

IAF SYMPOSIUM ON SECURITY, STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF SPACE ACTIVITIES (E9)
Interactive Presentations - IAF SYMPOSIUM ON SECURITY, STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF SPACE ACTIVITIES (IP)

Author: Mr. Richard Adam
United States

TROUBLES ON A NEW FRONTIER: AN EXAMINATION OF ISSUES FOR THE STABLE FUTURE OF HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT

Abstract

At 8:30AM on October 13, 2021, a stout blue and white rocket lifted from a dusty launchpad in Western Texas. It rose to a hundred thousand feet, stood for three minutes at the top of the world, and safely returned its crew back to their home planet. William Shatner, retired Star Trek actor and member of that crew, would never be the same. "To see the blue color whip by you, and now you're staring into blackness ... everybody in the world needs to do this. Everybody in the world needs to see this." That experience might not stay unique for long. With the launch of NASA's Artemis Program in 2020, dedicated to "Bring humans back to the moon to stay", along with the growth of companies like Blue Origin, planning to bring civilians to space, the expansion of human spaceflight is on the horizon. Considering the International Astronautics Conference Baku's theme of human spaceflight, it seems appropriate to investigate some of the less-considered aspects of human spaceflight and its growing access. There is a mountain of scholarly discussion regarding the positive technological, economic, and societal impact of past human spaceflight. What is less often talked about is the potential negative aspects facing the future of human spaceflight. Using several wide-ranging studies, I will address some of the looming negative effects of human spaceflight on humans, taking a holistic approach by investigating effects on both humans as individuals and humanity at large. To avoid the pitfalls facing humanity as we begin to expand into our corner of the cosmos, we need to understand both the individual and global societal traps that sit in the minefield between us and a peaceful future in space.