

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

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THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION, LOW-EARTH ORBIT, AND  
INTERNATIONAL SPACE COOPERATION

**Abstract**

The International Space Station (ISS) has been a beacon of international cooperation in space for over 25 years. Through the marshalling of shared resources and expertise, this engineering marvel has provided breakthroughs in research and lit the path for continued exploration beyond low-Earth orbit (LEO). Through the partnerships forged in LEO on the Space Station, NASA is working to expand human presence to new platforms, including those owned and operated by commercial entities. NASA is also working to expand the number of countries worldwide that seek to partner for peaceful exploration and science and technology research and development, while maintaining the partnerships that have been successful over the decades. By flying the Space Station through 2030, NASA and its partners will achieve their research and development plans, while providing for a smooth transition in human presence and partnership in LEO. As NASA seeks to continue the “decade or results” on the ISS while planning for continuing activities in LEO post-ISS on commercial platforms, the importance of strong international cooperation is as high as ever.