

SPACE EXPLORATION SYMPOSIUM (A3)
Space Exploration Overview (1)

Author: Dr. Jacques Arnould
Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), France, jacques.arnould@cnes.fr

WHY WANDERING AMONG THE STARS? SPACE EXPLORATION AND ETHICAL CHALLENGE

Abstract

At the time when Europe, the United States and the majority of the space powers are preparing the next stages of the exploration of space, it becomes increasingly obvious that to the scientific and technical, economic and political preparations must be joined a philosophical and ethical reflexion. On which human motivations these exploration programs do or can rest? Why investing in an enterprise, certainly so human, but also so expensive and risky? If the decision to explore, to leave its usual borders can only be the fact of people and of human society conscious of their identity, it can to also give the opportunity to offer them a value, a sometimes lost or forgotten sens to them. More than ever, the future of human has a cosmic savour.