

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

In 2001, space exploration was identified by ESA Member States as one of Europe's key priorities for the future and the European space exploration programme, Aurora, initiated. In the context of this programme, Europe is planning ahead for the future and developing a long-term strategy for space exploration which provides perspective and orientation for future European investments in space exploration.

The underlying principle of the European strategy is to implement space exploration as a global and societal project contributing to societal development. Following this principle the development of the strategy is performed in close consultation with all key stakeholder groups and to this effect ESA has undertaken various stakeholder consultation activities in the last years. The fundamental motivation for an early engagement of stakeholders in the strategy formulation phase is to create the foundation for a sustainable European space exploration programme which creates value for the society. At the time of the International Exploration Conference a first version of the European long-term strategy for space exploration will have been developed. The key objective of this conference is therefore to share with the broader stakeholder community the outcome of consultations and work performed throughout 2006 and 2007. It will address in particular:

The broader societal relevance of space exploration based on principles such as inspiration, knowledge, innovation, competitiveness and cultural development

Specific European interests and goals and the resulting European long-term scenario for space exploration

The international scenario and the importance of broad international coordination of European space exploration activities with existing and new international partners who can contribute to the robustness and cost-effectiveness of the programme

The focus of near-and medium term European and international exploration activities and the required means for exploration

PROGRAMME

The conference will offer an opportunity to learn more about space exploration and better understand the driving force behind this societal project and provide an exciting programme, which will include multi-media shows, speeches from invited guests, expert presentations, and roundtable discussions. Over the two days, the story of exploration will be told with the help of highly knowledgeable and inspirational speakers addressing some key questions that affect us all as European citizens and as human beings.

MAJOR PROGRAMME ELEMENTS

1. EXPLORATION AND SOCIETY

Importance of Exploration for Societal Development

Historic examples of exploration

2. THE SPACE AGE

Review of major accomplishments

Current status of activities

Role of space exploration

Achievements/ realised benefits of human spaceflight and space exploration

3. EUROPEAN INTERESTS AND ROLE

Exploration rationale, themes and objectives

Long-term scenario options

The role of stakeholders

New opportunities for science, public and private sector engagement

4. THE EXPLORATION JOURNEY AND DESTINATION

The role of International Space Station as a stepping stone

Science and exploration

The role of the Moon

The specific interest in Mars

Other destination

5. THE INTERNATIONAL SCENARIO

International plans

The role of international coordination

6. THE NEXT 10 YEARS

Utilisation of the International Space Station

Development of transportation capabilities for humans and cargo

Robotic missions to Moon and Mars

Roadmaps for development of future space exploration capabilities



A unique opportunity to get a personal insight on human spaceflight will be provided by two ESA astronauts who will share their experiences of recent missions to the ISS: Thomas Reiter who spent over 171 days in space for the Astrolab mission and whose arrival marked the return to a three-member ISS Expedition crew – the first since mid-2003, and Christer Fuglesang who took part in the Celsius Mission (December 06) and performed three highly-demanding spacewalks to prepare the ISS for the delivery of ESA Columbus Laboratory.

Registration will start on Wednesday afternoon, 7 November, followed by an evening reception. Various side events are organised spanning over the two days:



- German Parliamentarian evening*
- Public Engagement Evening: multimedia show on space exploration*
- Meeting of an international groups of space Agencies to discussion coordination of space exploration*
- Press conference*
- Media event*

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00	International Group for Space Exploration	International Group for Space Exploration	International Exploration Conference	International Exploration Conference
16:00 - 17:00		Registration		
18:00				
20:00 - 22:00		Evening Reception	German Parliamentarian Evening	General Public Event



INTERNATIONAL SPACE EXPLORATION CONFERENCE

"SPACE EXPLORATION – A GLOBAL SOCIETAL PROJECT"

**ESA/ DLR
BERLIN
8 - 9 NOVEMBER 2007**

DATE AND LOCATION

The conference will be held in Berlin, Germany, on 8 and 9 November 2007. We are happy to welcome our guests at Axica Conference Centre, home to Berlin's most exclusive congress and event centre with its unique location and its stunning architecture in the heart of Berlin.

The selected venue can host up to 500 participants. To get more information, please visit: <http://www.axica.de/en/axica/>

PARTICIPANTS

The event will be attended by high-level representatives of diverse stakeholder groups broadly identified as:

Political institutions
Industry and applied research organisations
International Partners and Space Agencies

The scientific community
The general public and public organisations

