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IAF HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT SYMPOSIUM (B3)

Governmental Human Spaceflight Programmes (Overview) (1)

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THE 2022 UPDATED LUNAR EXPLORATION SCENARIO FOR THE GLOBAL EXPLORATION ROADMAP (GER): THE GROWING GLOBAL EFFORT AND MOMENTUM GOING FORWARD TO THE MOON AND MARS

Abstract

In January 2018 the International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) issued its third edition of the Global Exploration Roadmap. It reflects the consensus of ISECG space agencies on a common strategy and roadmap for expanding human presence into the Solar System, with the surface of Mars as the long-term goal. The GER was augmented in 2020 and again in 2022 after rapid advances in agency lunar planning for human exploration, corresponding science goals and technology development strategies. These advances in lunar exploration plans of ISECG agencies are captured in the updated GER reference lunar surface exploration scenario in 2022. Based on the "ISECG Exploration Goals" and "Sustainability Principles", and building on inputs from the various agencies, lunar surface exploration objectives have been refined and aligned with current agency goals and new agency aspirations. A sustainable operation on and around the Moon is recognised as a shared goal directly contributing to enabling human missions to Mars. Key elements for achieving higher levels of sustainability are longer surface missions by surviving the lunar night, and the introduction of reusable elements. ISECG also initiated further analysis related to the potential of In-Situ Resource Utilisation, including the use of regolith and water ice on the lunar surface, which may create opportunities in the coming decades.