

THE SPACE EXPLORATION ALLIANCE

ENDORSE

MOON, MARS & BEYOND: FUND THE FY2005 NASA EXPLORATION BUDGET REQUEST

We Are

The Space Exploration Alliance,
an unprecedented partnership of
twenty of the nation's premier space advocacy groups,
industry associations and space policy organizations.

We Have Joined Together

To urge endorsement and full funding of the
new Vision for Space Exploration
that will refocus NASA's human space activities toward exploration,
including a return to the Moon and moving on to Mars and beyond.

Why Should You Endorse and Fund These Goals?

Here are just two reasons:

REASON #1: IT'S AFFORDABLE

Critics of Moon, Mars & Beyond have largely focused on cost.
Some falsely claim those costs will run into the trillions of dollars.

Some erroneously suggest huge increases
in the NASA budget will be required.

HERE'S THE REAL STORY:

*"It is a "go as you can pay" plan where we achieve periodic milestones,
technological advances, and discoveries based on what we can afford annually."*

*From the report of the
President's Commission on Implementation
of United States Space Exploration Policy
June 16, 2004*

With the clarity of a long-term vision focused on Moon, Mars & Beyond,
NASA funding can be directed toward a set of coherent goals.
Modest but steady growth in our national expenditures on space
will move the nation toward these important goals,
and the benefits those expenditures will provide.

Aerospace Industries Association • Aerospace States Association • American Astronautical Society
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics • California Space Authority
Federation of Galaxy Explorers • Florida Space Authority • Global Space Travelers • The Mars Society
Moon Society • NASA Alumni League • National Coalition of Spaceport States • National Space Society
ProSpace • ShareSpace Foundation • Space Access Society • Space Generation Foundation
Space Frontier Foundation • Space Studies Institute • X PRIZE Foundation

REASON #2: THE BENEFITS

Space already touches all of our lives, each and every day.
But don't just take our word for it:

"Space-based technology is revolutionizing major aspects of commercial and social activity and will continue to do so. Space enters homes, businesses, schools, hospitals and government offices... Much like highways and airways, water lines and electric grids, services supplied from space are already an important part of the U.S. and global infrastructures."

*From the report of
The Commission to Assess United States
National Security Space Management and Organization
January 11, 2001*

From breast cancer diagnosis technologies to wildfire management, from computerized design processes to cleaner cars, space flight research provides this nation with immeasurable benefit.

As space activity becomes increasingly integrated with every aspect of life here on earth, the new focus on exploration will provide myriad advances in science and technology, untold economic opportunity and serve as an inspiration to our nation's youth.

That last point is perhaps the most vital. A firm commitment to space exploration will encourage students to study math and science, which will prepare today's youth for tomorrow's challenges.

Given those benefits and the many more that lie in store, this new program of human space exploration beyond low earth orbit is a vital link to the future of the United States and the world.

AFFORDABLE – SUSTAINABLE – CREDIBLE: THE THREE KEYS TO SUCCESS

There has been much concern expressed regarding the dearth of detail about this new program of exploration that has been provided to date. We agree that such an undertaking requires careful planning and there is much to learn about how this nation would accomplish these new goals.

All such planning must use the criteria of affordability, sustainability and credibility as the standards under which the program must be governed.

We would submit, however, that approval by the Congress of the goals of returning humans to the moon and sending them to Mars and beyond is the essential first step that must take place before in-depth program design and planning can begin.

Approval of NASA's exploration funding request for FY 2005 would provide the necessary financial support for such planning to proceed.

Thank you for your kind attention.