



Space Exploration Alliance Summer 2005 Legislative Action Plan

Who We Are

The Space Exploration Alliance is an unprecedented partnership of the nation's premier non-profit space organizations with a combined membership of more than 1.2 million people throughout the United States.

SEA Vision

We support the Vision for Space Exploration as a bold and substantial mandate for human and robotic exploration of the solar system that will help assure American technological and scientific preeminence in the 21st century.

Fully Support the Vision's Plan and Financial Requirements

Space exploration is and should be a national priority for the United States. The exploration of space drives innovation, creates jobs, improves national security, and fosters a feeling of curiosity and wonder among children and adults alike. The Vision for Space Exploration provides the space community with admirable and achievable goals that allow private and public space ventures to coordinate to achieve great things to the benefit of the entire nation. In addition, it will dramatically increase our knowledge of the Universe and begin the process of opening new worlds for humanity

RECOMMENDATION: Congress should fully endorse all aspects of the Vision for Space Exploration in the final authorization bill for NASA, and support full funding for the Vision in NASA's appropriation.

Accelerate Schedule for Achievement of the Vision

The Vision for Space Exploration can be achieved at the earliest milestones set out in the original plan. As compared to the plans of the previous NASA Administrator, this is an acceleration of the program's schedule.

- Accelerating CEV development will decrease the amount of time that the United States is without a manned spaceflight capability and will reduce our dependence on foreign spaceflight providers.

RECOMMENDATION: Congress should support NASA as it accelerates the exploration plan, including the development of the Crew Exploration Vehicle, lunar and Martian missions.

Launch Technology

- NASA plans to utilize a mix of launch vehicle systems to meet America's space exploration requirements over the coming years.
- NASA's plans for the next generation of human launch vehicles and cargo carriers are well constructed and should be supported.
- NASA has stated an intention to utilize private launch alternatives for Space Station resupply. This is critical to stimulate the emerging private launch industry as well as promote innovation in technology. Congress should support utilization of private launch and service alternatives.

RECOMMENDATION: NASA's plans for human and cargo launch vehicles are on the right course. Congress should support those plans.

INA Amendment Protects America's Investment in ISS

On behalf of the Administration, NASA recently submitted to Congress a proposed amendment to the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000 (INA) (P.L. 106-178).

- The proposed amendment maintains U.S. nonproliferation principles and objectives, while maintaining the cooperative U.S.-Russia space partnership.
- Beginning in April 2006, INA restrictions could prevent the U.S. from maintaining U.S. crew members of the International Space Station except during brief Space Shuttle visits.
- INA restrictions will affect NASA's ability to meet U.S. obligations to the International Space Station Partners under existing Station agreements, including crew rescue capability.
- INA restrictions could also prevent the U.S. from effective use of Russian capabilities in support of human space exploration.

Removing the restriction on payments related to human space flight will enable the U.S. to take advantage of unique Russian capabilities and provide parity between NASA and DoD in acquiring Russian capabilities. U.S.-Russia space cooperation is an area of the overall U.S.-Russia relationship that has had marked success and should be preserved.

RECOMMENDATION: Congress should enact the proposed INA amendment in this legislative session, and protect America's investment in the International Space Station.

International Participation

SEA supports opportunities for international participation in space exploration.

Thank You for Your Support of the Vision for Space Exploration