

# INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION UPDATE

## NATIONAL ACADEMIES COMMITTEE MEETING

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National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), United States

# ISS NATIONAL LAB (CASSIS) STATUS

- Future National Laboratory Planning
  - Going forward, calling “The Institute”, full name TBD
  - NASA-internal workshops held in May 2024 and July 2024
  - Initial review by NASA leadership completed July 2024
  - Presented plan to OSTP LEO S&T IWG July 2024
  - Conducting external engagement with NSpC, the Hill, then Industry and International Partners

# Station Mission Goals – The Decade of Results

## Enable Deep Space Exploration

Validate Exploration Technologies and Reduce Human Health Risks

**29** NASA tech demos initiated since 2018

**~20** human health risks continuing to be characterized and countermeasures developed

## Conduct Research to Benefit Humanity

Life-saving medical research & applications, understanding climate change, sharing discoveries with all

**> 4000** investigations

**> 5000** investigators represented

**> 4000** scientific results publications

**~4.6 million** images of Earth captured

Over **700** payloads have flown through the ISS National Lab; **80%** from the **commercial** sector

**\$2.2 billion** of capital raised by startups post-flight

**>27** In-Space Production Applications Awards to date

**3** Private Astronaut Missions

## Enable International Collaboration

Maintain & expand international partnerships, set norms & standards

**~more than 2200** international-led investigations through Expedition 69  
**117** countries/areas with ISS research and education participation  
**1st** ISS increment UAE astronaut

## Foster Commercial Space Industry

*In partnership with Commercial LEO Program*

Incubate in-space manufacturing, support commercial LEO facilities and customers

## Inspire Humankind

Broaden reach of space benefits, engage public, create diverse future STEM workforce

Involves **100,000+** people at **500** contractor facilities

in **37** U.S. states and **16** countries

**>10 million** student activities in 2024

**18 million people** follow social media accounts

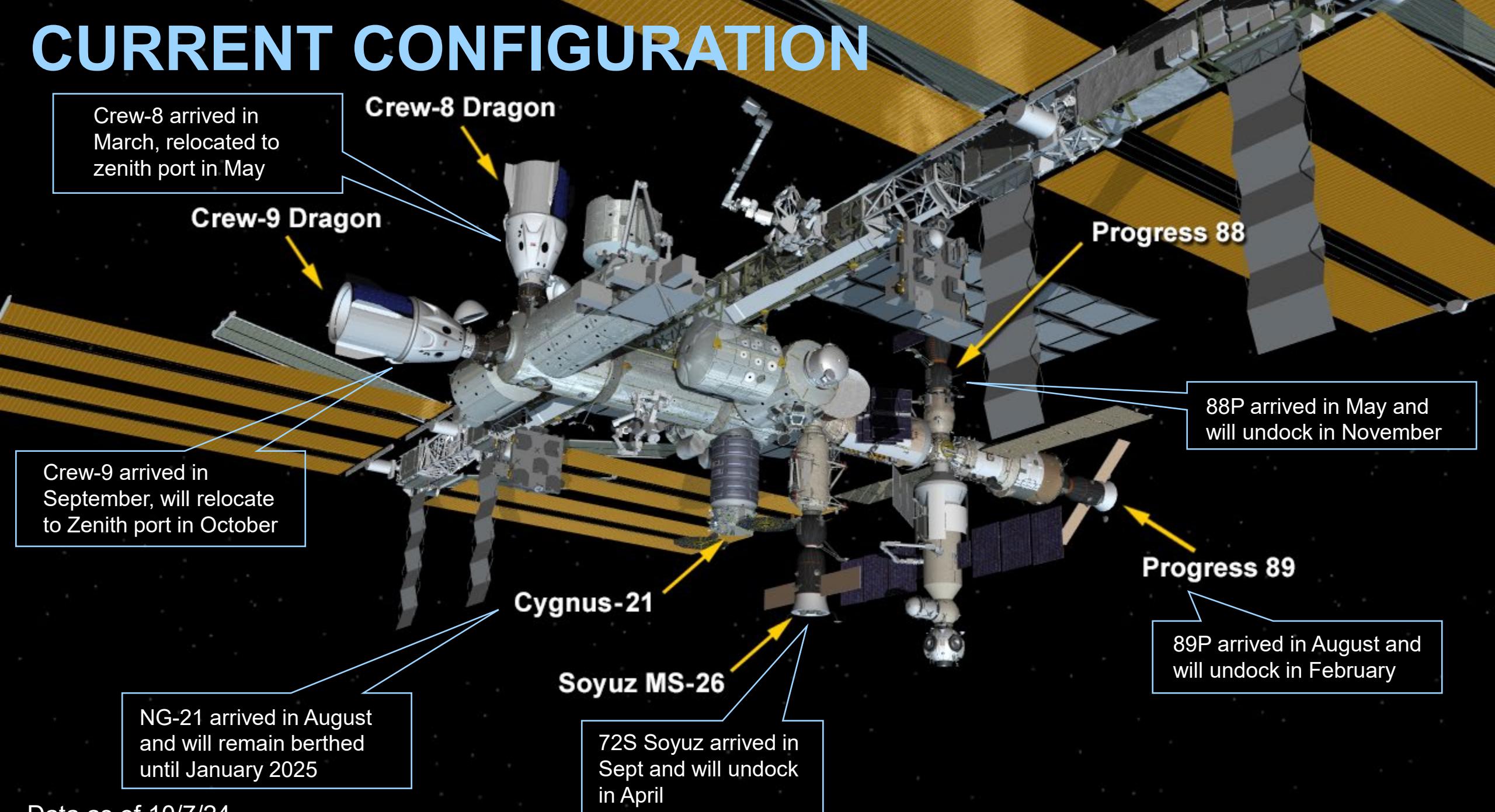
## Provide a Continuous LEO Infrastructure and Destination

Ensure continuous human presence in LEO - no gap; provide destination for crew & cargo transportation



**INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION  
BUSIER THAN EVER BEFORE**

# CURRENT CONFIGURATION



# EXPEDITION 72 OVERVIEW

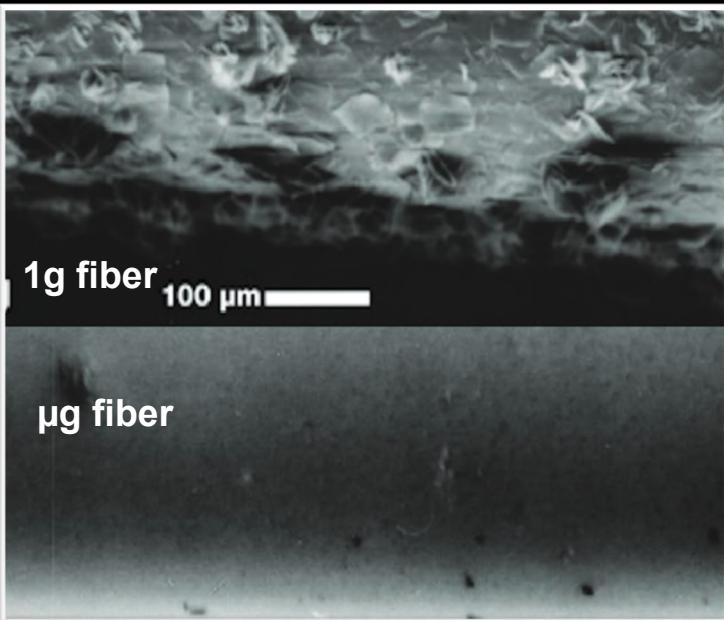
- SpaceX Crew-9 Launch/Dock ✓
- SpaceX Crew-8 Undock/Splashdown
- SpaceX Crew-9 Relocate
- SpaceX CRS-31
- Progress 88P Undock
- Progress 90P Launch/Dock
- Dream Chaser Cargo Mission (DCC-1)
- Northrop Grumman CRS-21 Release
- US EVAs (IROSA Prep 2A + RGA, CARD, RFG 2.5, IROSA Prep 3B)
- Progress 89P Undock
- Progress 91P Launch/Dock
- SpaceX Crew-10 Launch/Dock
- SpaceX Crew-9 Undock/Splashdown
- SpaceX Crew-32 Launch/Dock
- Soyuz 73S Launch/Dock
- Soyuz 72S Undock



The International Space Station's Expedition 72 crew. At the top (from left) are, Alexey Ovchinin (Roscosmos), Suni Williams (NASA), and Butch Wilmore (NASA). In the middle row are, Ivan Vagner (Roscosmos) and Don Pettit (NASA). In the bottom row are, Aleksandr Gorbunov (Roscosmos) and Nick Hague (NASA).

# SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Successful 3D Bioprint of Live Human Heart Tissue
- Printing Higher Quality Optic Fiber in Microgravity
- Detecting Malignant Self-Replicating DNA
- NASA's First Optical Link on the Space Station



# COMMERCIAL LEO DESTINATION STRATEGY

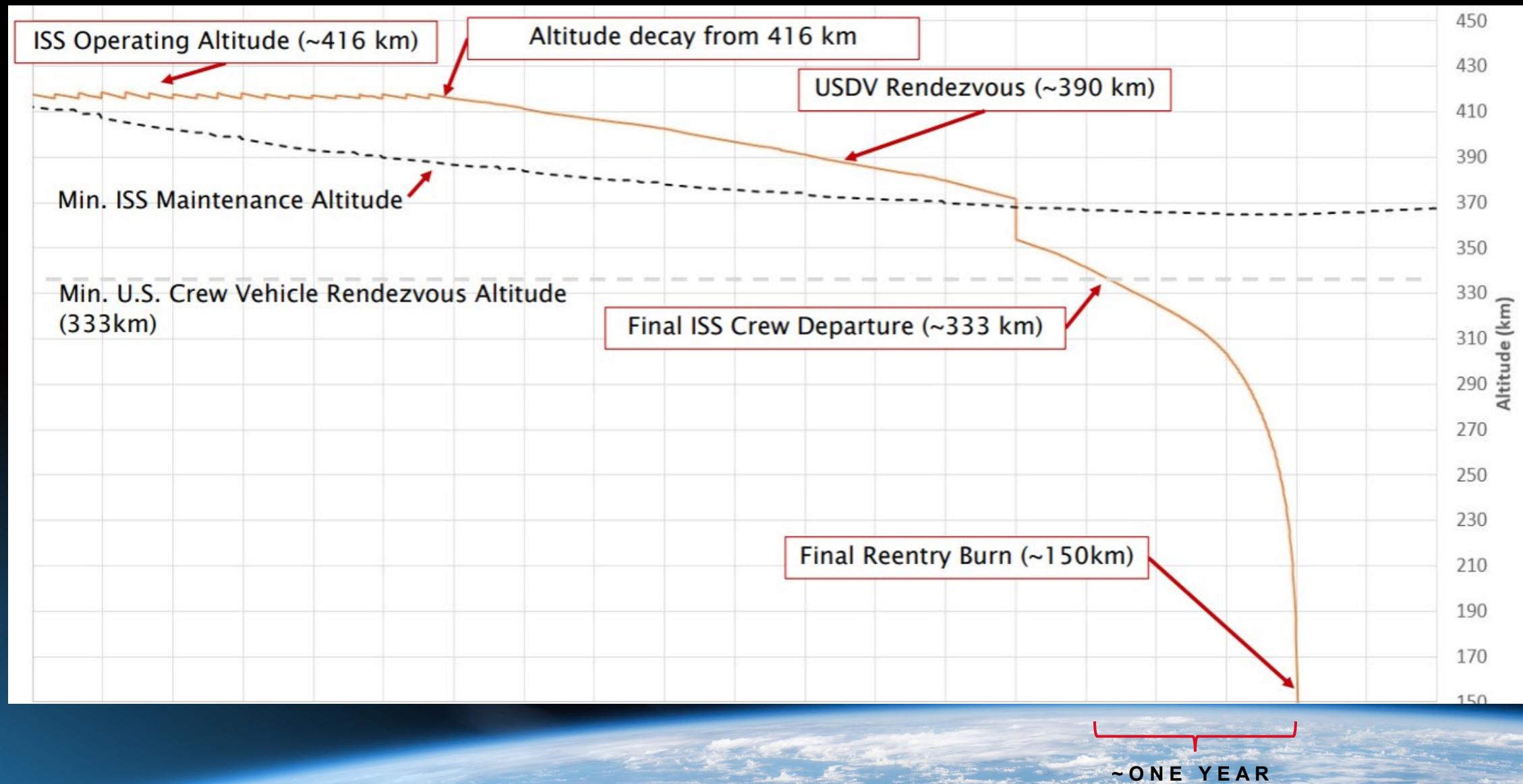


# WHY IS DEORBIT NECESSARY?

Alternate options to deorbiting the International Space Station were considered, including:

- Uncontrolled re-entry
- Disassembly and return to Earth
- Disassembly and repurposing in low Earth orbit
- Disassembly and deorbit in smaller pieces
- Boosting to a higher orbit
- Decomposition of the station while in space
- Transitioning to a commercial operator
- Continuing operations beyond 2030

# NOTIONAL DEORBIT PLAN



NASA's flagship human spaceflight programs have built upon each other, expanding our knowledge and experience of humans living and working in space.

However, a key question exists: What comes next for humans in low Earth orbit?





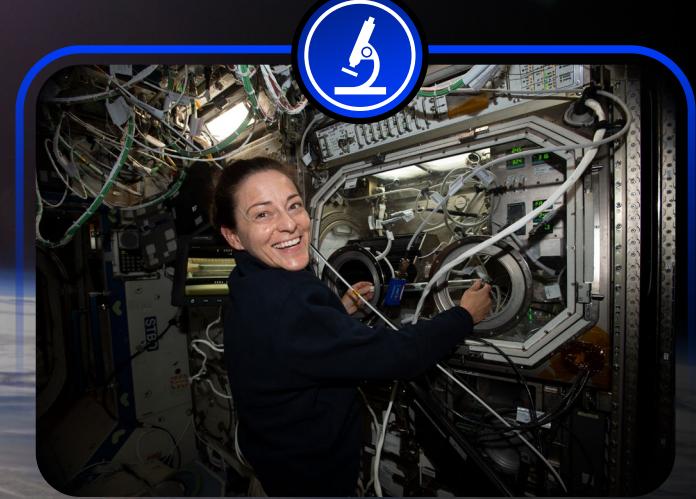
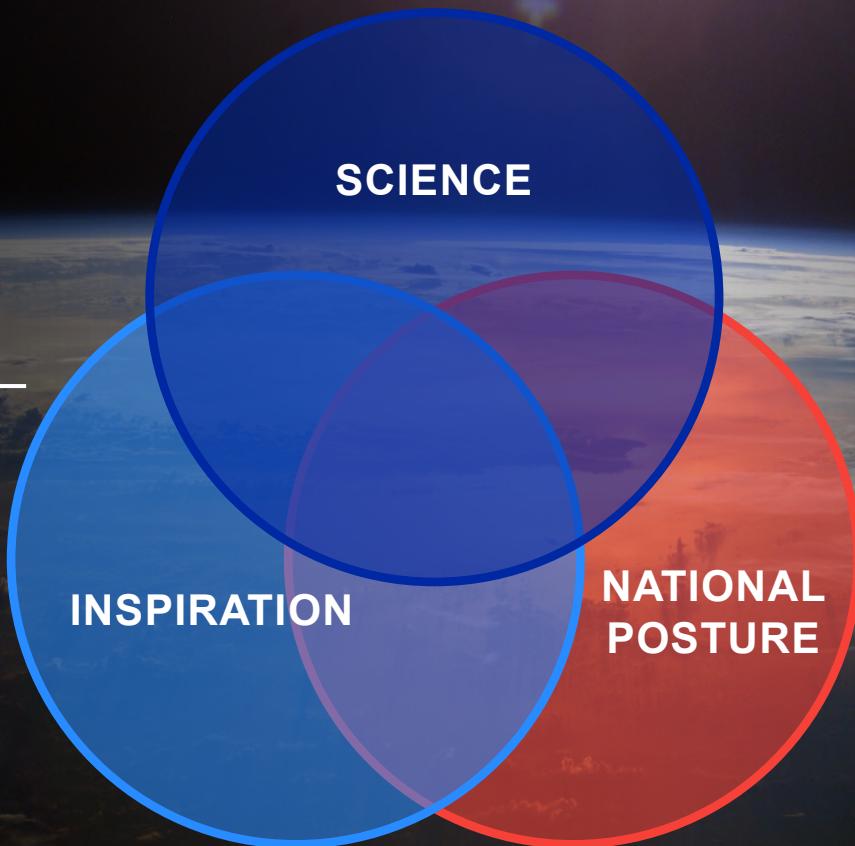
# THE LEO MICROGRAVITY STRATEGY

- **ADVANCE** GLOBAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY GOALS
- **FOSTER** INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
- **REVOLUTIONIZE** A COMMERCIAL LOW EARTH ORBIT ECONOMY
- **INSPIRE** FUTURE GENERATIONS TO IMPROVE THE WORLD THROUGH SPACE ENDEAVORS

# WHY GO?

## BENEFITS TO HUMANITY

The pursuit of exploration yields invaluable scientific discoveries, serves as a catalyst for global cooperation, and inspires future generations to dream big.





OUR VISION

“Leading the next generation of human presence in low Earth orbit to advance microgravity science, technology, and exploration.

A WHOLISTIC APPROACH

# LMS TEAM

Participants from the mission directorates, mission support offices, and cross-agency federated board are engaged as part of a working group to develop goals and objectives for the LEO Microgravity Strategy (LMS).

Each organization was tasked to develop goals and objectives for their assigned bucket.



## SCIENCE

What human-enabled science that is unique to the microgravity environment will we do in LEO?



## COMMERCIAL LEO INFRASTRUCTURE

What role should the private sector play?



## EXPLORATION-ENABLING RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

What technologies should NASA develop, test, demonstrate in LEO?

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

How should NASA expand and strengthen international relationships in LEO?



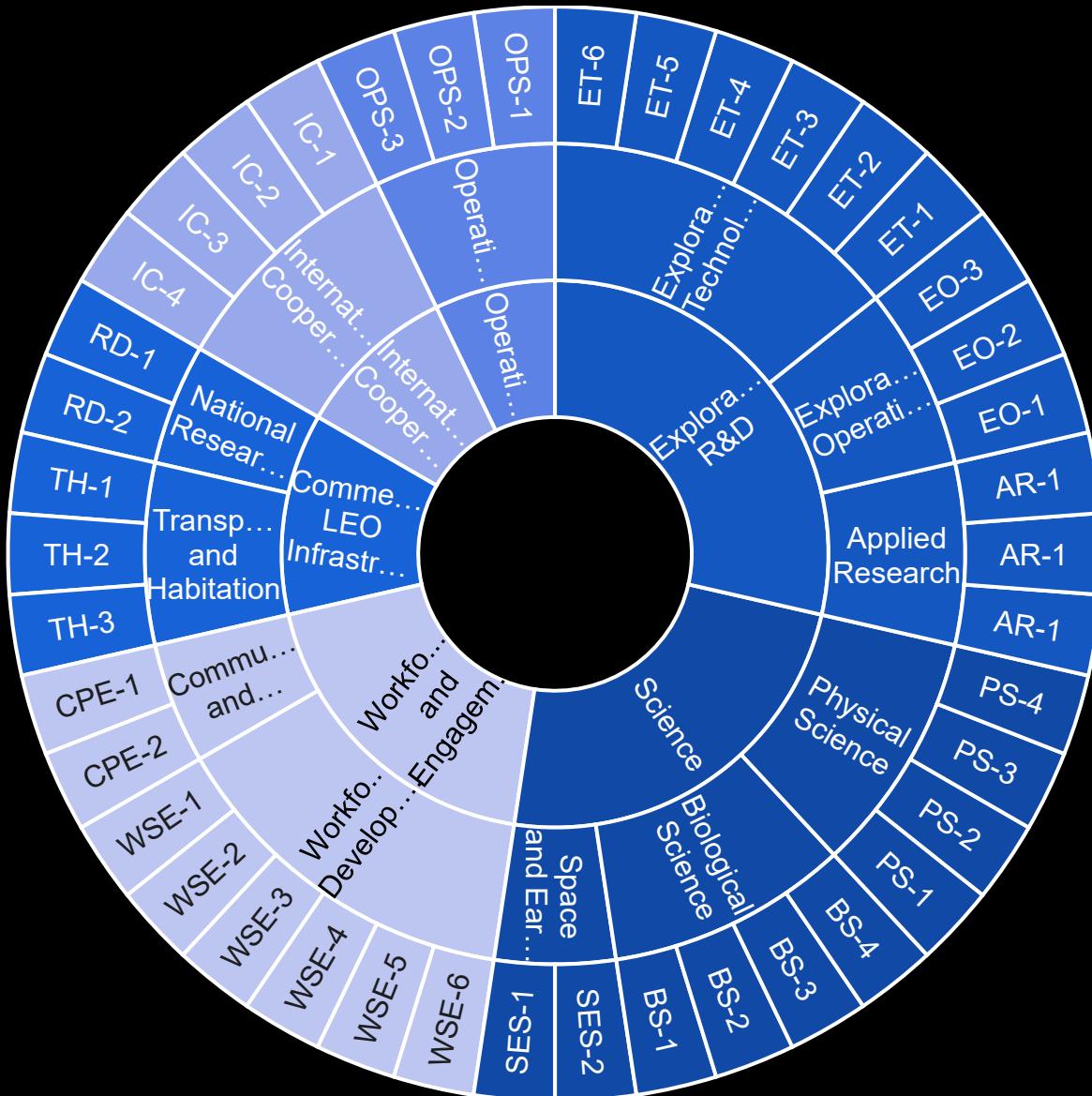
## OPERATIONS

What operational skills should NASA preserve, especially looking ahead to the Moon and Mars?

## WORKFORCE AND ENGAGEMENT

How does NASA ensure we inspire the next generation?

# Goals and Objectives



## TOTAL OBJECTIVES

**42**

Science and Exploration-Enabling Research and Technology Development make up over 50% of the total objectives. Workforce and Engagement have nearly 20%.

## TOTAL GOALS

**12**

Science and Exploration-Enabling Research and Technology Development each have three goals, making up half of the total goals.

# Broad Stakeholder Inputs



## Space Sustainability

Ensure the next stages of LEO science and exploration is safe and sustainable to the overall space environment



## Articulating the “Why”

Enhance goals further with rationale on why low Earth orbit is important and why humans are needed



## Commercial LEO Infrastructure

Highlight the importance in goal categories; Transportation and Habitation in critical path



## Continuous Human Presence

Address the need and meaning of continuous human presence

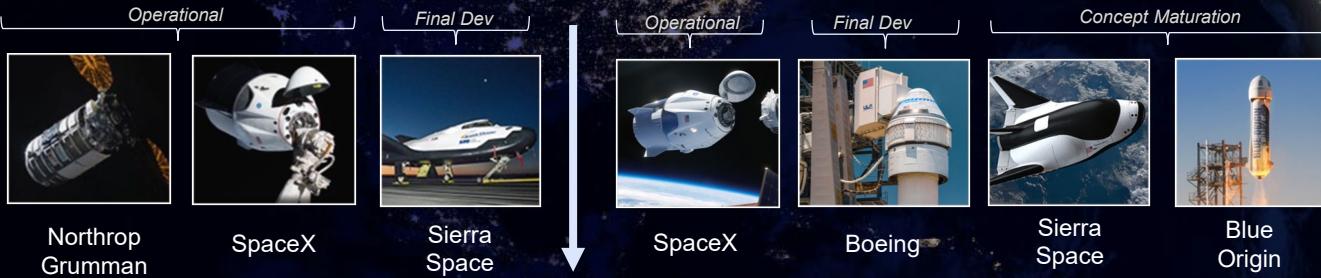
# VISION FOR LEO ECONOMY: A WORLD OF NEW POSSIBILITIES

- NASA is one of many customers in a robust low Earth orbit economy
- Commercially-owned and operated transportation for cargo and crew
- Commercially-owned and operated LEO destinations that are safe, reliable, and cost-effective
- Regular production, distribution, and trade of goods and services
- Ongoing research and science activities including a LEO National Lab
- Continuation of human spaceflight exploration objectives
- Sustained presence and U.S. leadership in LEO

## COLLABORATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE CAPABILITIES



## COMMERCIAL CARGO & CREW TRANSPORTATION

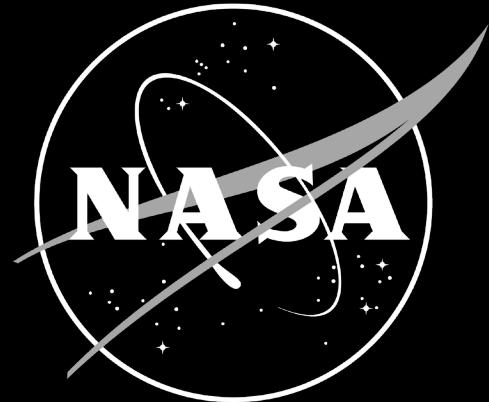


## COMMERCIAL LEO DESTINATIONS

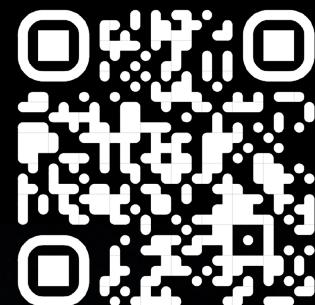


## MORE ELEMENTS OF A STRONG LEO ECONOMY





## SPACE OPERATIONS MISSION DIRECTORATE



X @NASASpaceOps

# DESTINATION: LOW EARTH ORBIT

With the Space Shuttle Program and International Space Station, NASA took the next steps to learn how to sustain life off Earth long-term through life-changing scientific advancements, while also igniting the spark of the next economic revolution.

## WHY NOW

The next economic revolution is in space and NASA's work in low-Earth orbit continues to propel an emerging space economy that will power and empower countless future generations and create new jobs and industries.

## WHY NASA

Since construction began on the International Space Station in 1998, NASA has garnered unparalleled experience and expertise in low Earth orbit operations.



