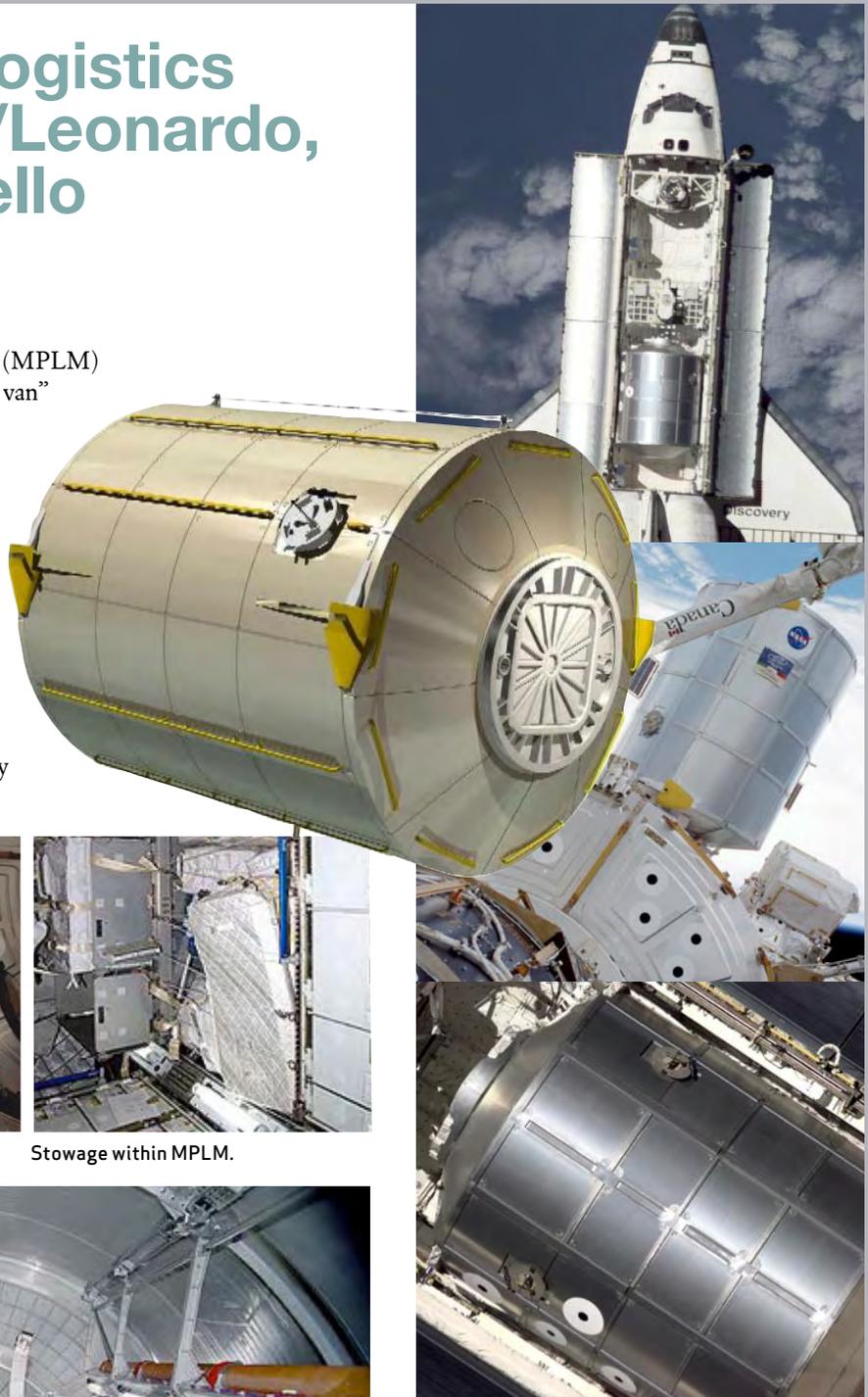


Multi-Purpose Logistics Module (MPLM)/Leonardo, Raffaello, Donatello

NASA/Alcatel Alenia Space

The Italian-built Multi-Purpose Logistics Module (MPLM) serves as the International Space Station’s “moving van” by carrying laboratory racks filled with equipment, experiments, and supplies to and from the Station aboard the Space Shuttle.

Mounted in the Shuttle’s cargo bay for launch and landing, the modules are transferred to the Station using the Shuttle’s robotic arm after the Shuttle has docked. While berthed to the Station, racks of equipment and stowage items are unloaded from the module, and racks and equipment may be reloaded to be transported back to Earth. The MPLM is then detached from the Station and positioned in the Shuttle’s cargo bay for the trip home.



MPLM berthed at Node 1.



Stowage within MPLM.



MPLM interior during cargo transfers.

Length	6.6 m (21.7 ft)
Diameter	4.2 m (13.8 ft)
Mass (structure)	4,685 kg (10,329 lb)
Mass (payload)	9,400 kg (20,700 lb)
Racks	16, 5 active
Pressurized habitable volume	31 m ³ (1,095 ft ³)