International Exploration Perspective

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A Bold Vision for Space Exploration
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• Complete the International Space Station
• Safely fly the Space Shuttle until 2010
• Develop and fly the Crew Exploration Vehicle no later than 2014 (goal 2012)
• Return to the moon no later than 2020
• Extend human presence across the solar system and beyond
• Implement a sustained and affordable human and robotic program
• Develop supporting innovative technologies, knowledge, and infrastructures

• Promote international and commercial participation in exploration

“It is time for America to take the next steps.

Today I announce a new plan to explore space and extend a human presence across our solar system. We will begin the effort quickly, using existing programs and personnel. We’ll make steady progress – one mission, one voyage, one landing at a time”

President George W. Bush
January 14, 2004
Situation A Year Ago

• NASA seen as focused on a national exploration program, with no indication of active interest in international participation
  – Discussions in 2004 and early 2005 seen as not leading anywhere
  – No substantive discussions with potential partners since Mike Griffin took office
  – Shift in policy to exclude non-U.S. industry from partnering with U.S. industry on CEV or other elements of the lunar transportation system

• Uncertainty about whether the Shuttle would be returned to flight after problems on STS-114; other countries well aware of internal U.S. debate on this issue
On November 1, 2005, Mike Griffin said:

- it was time “to engage other nations on a bilateral and multilateral basis in more serious discussions on how we can form productive partnerships to advance the objectives of the Vision.”

- “now is the time to engage in substantive dialogue about what we can collectively do to establish new beachheads in space.”
What A Difference A Year Makes – Situation Now

- White House last fall made firm decision to fly the Shuttle the minimum number of times to complete ISS assembly – this was welcome news to ISS partners
- Success of STS-121 and 115 gives credibility to NASA’s ability to fly rest of ISS manifest; first post-Columbia night launch scheduled for December 7
What A Difference A Year Makes

• This policy statement has been followed up by intense engagement with potential partners, starting with lunar exploration strategy workshop in April 2006
• Thirteen space agencies have been meeting face-to-face and by telecon
• Another meeting will take place here Thursday and Friday
• One aim is a joint statement on a “Global Sustainable Space Exploration Strategy”
• One senior European official recently commented that he was nervous because things were “going too well.”
“Each of our countries also has unique national security concerns. Having spent a good portion of my career working for the U.S. Department of Defense, I am not ignorant of the military applications of space technologies, nor of the need to regulate the proliferation of certain capabilities, and missile technologies are prominent among these. The United States is firmly committed to ensuring that certain key technologies, which we possess and some others do not, not be used against us or our allies. That priority is higher for us than partnership in various space endeavors, and this fact must be understood and carefully considered by the parties involved in any putative collaboration. I recognize the bluntness of this assertion, but I believe that each of us, as spacefaring nations, must respect each other’s national priorities, and must speak openly and honestly with each other if there are differences which hamper our ability to collaborate.”