



#### **Progress in Defining the Deep Space Gateway and Transport Plan**

William H. Gerstenmaier to the NASA Advisory Council March 28, 2017

# Our Goal



The nation's goal for space exploration is to lead an effort that expands human presence deeper into the solar system through a sustainable human and robotic spaceflight program.

### **Exploring Space In Partnership**

*Now* Using the International Space Station 2020s

Operating in the Lunar Vicinity Orbit Advancing technologies, discovery and creating economic opportunities

2030s Leaving the Earth-Moon System and Reaching Mars Orbit

#### Phase 0

Solve exploration mission challenges through research and systems testing on the ISS. Understand if and when lunar resources are available

#### Phase 1

Conduct missions in cislunar space; assemble Deep Space Gateway and Deep Space Transport

#### Phase 2

Complete Deep Space Transport and conduct Mars verification mission

#### Phases 3 and 4

Missions to the Mars system, the surface of Mars



SEC. 202. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.

(a) LONG TERM GOALS - The long-term goals of the human space flight and exploration efforts of NASA shall be -

(1) to expand permanent human presence beyond low-Earth orbit and to do so, where practical, in a manner involving international, academic, and industry partners;

(2) crewed missions and progress toward achieving the goal in paragraph(1) to enable the potential for subsequent human exploration and the extension of human presence throughout the solar system; and

(3) to enable a capability to extend human presence, including potential human habitation on another celestial body and a thriving space economy in the 21st Century.



(b) KEY OBJECTIVES - The key objectives of the United States for human expansion into space shall be -

(1) to sustain the capability for long-duration presence in low-Earth orbit, initially through continuation of the ISS and full utilization of the United States segment of the ISS as a National Laboratory, and through assisting and enabling an expanded commercial presence in, and access to, low-Earth orbit, as elements of a low-Earth orbit infrastructure;

(2) to determine if humans can live in an extended manner in space with decreasing reliance on Earth, starting with utilization of low-Earth orbit infrastructure, to identify potential roles that space resources such as energy and materials may play, to meet national and global needs and challenges, such as potential cataclysmic threats, and to explore the viability of and lay the foundation for sustainable economic activities in space;

(3) to maximize the role that human exploration of space can play in advancing overall knowledge of the universe, supporting United States national and economic security and the United States global competitive posture, and inspiring young people in their educational pursuits;

(4) to build upon the cooperative and mutually beneficial framework established by the ISS partnership agreements and experience in developing and undertaking programs and meeting objectives designed to realize the goal of human space flight set forth in subsection (a); and

(5) to achieve human exploration of Mars and beyond through the prioritization of those technologies and capabilities best suited for such a mission in accordance with the stepping stone approach to exploration under section 70504 of title 51, United States Code.

#### Human Space Exploration Phases From ISS to the Surface of Mars as of November 2016









#### Phase 0: Exploration Systems Testing on ISS and in LEO (17 objectives)

"Leverage the ISS as a test bed to demonstrate key exploration capabilities and operations, and foster an emerging commercial space industry in LEO."

Phase 1: Cislunar Demonstration of Exploration Systems (28 objectives) Update will reflect buildup of the Deep Space Gateway

Phase 2: Cislunar Validation of Exploration Systems (18 objectives) Updated will reflect buildup of the Deep Space Transport





# NA

#### Assumptions

- Deep Space Gateway provides ability to support multiple NASA, U.S. commercial, and international partner objectives in Phase 1 and beyond
- The Gateway is designed for deep space environments
  - Supports (with Orion docked) crew of 4 for total mission up to 42 days
  - Supports buildup of the Deep Space Transport
  - Open trade for compatibility for operations in Low Lunar Orbit
- Emphasis on defining early Phase 1 elements
  - Gateway Power Propulsion Bus
  - Gateway Habitat
  - Logistics Strategy
- Future work to refine later elements; early feasibility trades complete
  - Airlock
  - Deep Space Transport

#### Phase 1 Plan Establishing deep-space leadership and preparing for Deep Space Transport development







# PHASE 2





 Ability to support lunar surface missions

# **Deep Space Transport Functionality**



#### Assumptions

- Deep Space Transport provides habitation and transportation needs for transporting crew into deep space including supporting human Mars-class missions
- The Transport system life will be designed for:
  - Reused for 3 Mars-class missions with resupply and minimal maintenance
  - Crew of 4 for 1,000 day-class missions in deep space
  - Launched on one SLS 1B cargo vehicle resupply and minimal outfitting to be performed in cislunar space
- Emphasis on supporting shakedown cruise by 2029
  - Shakedown cruise to be performed in lunar vicinity
  - Utilizes deep space interfaces and common design standards
- Future work trades
  - Shakedown cruise objectives
  - Mars reference mission functional requirements

# How are we leading future human exploration?



Maximizing utilization of the International Space Station Actively promoting LEO commercialization Resolving the human health and performance challenges Expanding partnerships with commercial industry Growing international partnerships Building the critical Deep Space Infrastructure

Enabling the capabilities to explore multiple destinations