

FROM THE GLOBAL EXPLORATION STRATEGY (GES) TO THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE

EXPLORATION WORKING GROUP (ISECG). M. Baltuck¹, J.W. Curtis², S. Espinasse³, J.J.Favier⁴, G. Gibbs⁵, B. Hufenbach⁶, J. Kawaguchi⁷, A. Lorenzoni³, N. R. Newman⁸, D. Parker⁹, G. L. Yoder⁸, ¹CSIRO Information and Communication Technology, PO Box 1035 Tuggeranong ACT 2901 Australia, ²BNSC - British National Space Centre 151 Buckingham Palace Road London SW1W 9SS United Kingdom, ³ASI- Italian Space Agency, Viale Liegi 26 - 00198 Roma - Italy - sylvie.espinasse@asi.it, ⁴CNES - Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, 18 avenue Edouard Belin 31 401 Toulouse Cedex 4 France, ⁵CSA - Canadian Space Agency, 6767 route de l'aéroport, St- Hubert (Qc) J3Y 8Y9 Canada, ⁶ESA - European Space Agency ESTEC Keplerlaan 1, 2201 Noordwijk, The Netherlands, ⁷JSPEC - JAXA Space Exploration Center, 3-1-1 Yoshinodai, Sagamihara, Kanagawa 229-8510 Japan, ⁸NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration NASA HQ -300 E Street SW - Washington DC 20546 - USA, ⁹STFC - Science & Technology Facilities Council - Polaris House North Star Avenue Swindon SN2 1SZ United Kingdom

Abstract: In 2006, 14 space agencies began a series of discussions on global interests in space exploration. Together they took the unprecedented step of elaborating a vision for peaceful robotic and human space exploration, focussing on destinations within the Solar System where humans may one day live and work, and developed a common set of key space exploration themes. This vision was articulated in "The Global Exploration Strategy: The Framework for Coordination" (the Framework Document), which was released on May 31, 2007.

The process of creating, editing, and producing the Framework Document has nurtured a strong consensus and partnership among the fourteen founding space agencies. This spirit of openness, flexibility, and mutual respect that marked the Framework Document development process yielded a truly cooperative effort and the starting point for broader discussions.

A key element of the Framework Document was the need to establish a voluntary, non-binding international coordination mechanism through which individual agencies may exchange information regarding interests, objectives and plans in space exploration with the goal of strengthening both individual exploration programmes as well as the collective effort. The coordination mechanism is now called the International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) whose members are working together since the adoption of its Terms of Reference by the participating agencies in November 2007.

The presentation will present the contents of the Framework Document, describe the activities performed by ISECG and discuss its relationship with other existing groups like ILEWG.