NASA's HEDS Enterprise

The Human Exploration and Development of Space (HEDS) is NASA's Strategic Enterprise that encompasses NASA's programs of human space flight. The goals of the HEDS are to:

- Increase human knowledge of nature's processes using the space environment
- Explore and settle the solar system
- Achieve routine space travel
- Enrich life on Earth through people living and working in space

This endeavor currently is represented in NASA by several programs:

- The Office of Space Flight, which is responsible for developing and operating the space shuttle and the International Space Station
- The Office of Life and Microgravity Sciences, which conducts research on the effects of the space environment on humans and on utilizing human space flight opportunities to conduct scientific and technological experiments in the life sciences and materials sciences
- The Office of Space Sciences, which conducts robotic flight missions that prepare the way to the Moon, Mars, and elsewhere for human explorers who will follow

All three offices are working to develop an integrated approach to the human exploration and development of space. The Enterprise is a long-term affair that will encompass groundbased research, space flight experimentation, and exploration missions beyond low Earth orbit.

The Exploration Office at the NASA Johnson Space Center, in Houston, Texas, is the lead office for the post-space-shuttle/space-station elements of the HEDS program. Emphasis at this time is on the robotic and human exploration of the Moon and Mars. Offices at most NASA Centers are also involved:

- Lewis Research Center (Cleveland, Ohio)
- Marshall Space Flight Center (Huntsville, Alabama)
- Langley Research Center (Hampton, Virginia)
- Goddard Space Flight Center (Greenbelt, Maryland)
- ❖ Jet Propulsion Laboratory (Pasadena, California)
- Ames Research Center (Moffet Field, California)