

## Third High Level Conference on Space Exploration

### Eurospace views and concerns

#### **Exploration: A European domain of excellence**

Thanks to the continuous support of member States, European Space industry has positioned itself at the forefront of many technological areas in connection with Space exploration:

- Space Transportation: Through the exploitation of Ariane launchers, Europe has become a world leader in the field of heavy launchers,
- In-orbit rendez-vous and docking: the development of ATV is a globally recognized achievement,
- ISS pressurised modules: Columbus, the Multi Purpose Pressurized Logistic Modules (MPLM), the nodes and Cupola make Europe second only to the United States in terms of capacity of operations of in-orbit laboratories, ...
- Europe has developed great capabilities in robotic missions to all parts of the solar system - Europe's industries contributed going to Mars, Venus, Mercury, the Sun, landing on Titan, and going to comets Halley, Grigg-Skjellerup & Churyumov-Gerasimenko.

In support to these emblematic projects, Europe has consistently developed a sound and competent industrial base in the various associated technologies.

These achievements must once again be saluted.

#### **Build up an international cooperation**

The Lucca conference on Space exploration will continue the discussions undertaken at international level in order to give shape to a future Space exploration global cooperation.

Space industry certainly welcomes the setting up of a dedicated international framework to put in common views and objectives and to take up the technological and scientific challenges of the further manned and robotic exploration of the solar system.

This event gathering many high-level policy makers is a unique opportunity for Europe to assert its ambitions in the field of Space exploration, to be concretised at a later stage in firm programmatic long-term commitments.

#### **A dynamic sector worldwide**

On the international scene, major evolutions have been noticed in the last few months:

- China is continuing its plans for the deployment of their own in-orbit facility, paving the way for further manned flight projects,
- United States have reconsidered the design of their next generation Space Transportation system, exhibiting great ambitions towards asteroids and the Moon, and ultimately to Mars,
- Russia recently renewed ambitions of Moon exploration.

European industry acknowledges the continuing investment by the international partners and consequently identifies this time as one of opportunity for Europe to help shape the roadmap.

**Little progress on the European side**

On European side, the potential involvement of the Union to play an active role in the elaboration and the implementation of European contributions to such international endeavour has not yet become a reality in the proposal for the next Multi-annual Financial Framework.

In this new context, it remains to be seen how the European political leadership, which is one of the conditions for the success of such multi-lateral, multi-disciplinary and long term projects, will be exerted.

For the time being, the initiative to define European future contributions and consequently engage needed technological developments in this domain will have to be taken by member States in an inter-governmental framework.

**An alarming situation**

For industry, this situation is alarming.

As a matter of fact, most of the developments undertaken in the framework of ISS are reaching completion and no new projects are being initiated to prepare a solid future.

Consequently, the risk of discontinuation of activities in many Exploration specific technological areas has never been so critical. Key know-how which has been so costly to build up is at risk and could be dispersed.

From this standpoint, industry urges ESA, national delegations and EC to set the base of a Europe-wide RT&D roadmap to ensure at least the preservation of key competences in this domain, until actual programmatic decisions can be made.

Eurospace is looking forward to contributing to such initiative by providing the inputs of the European Space industry.

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