



Return on Investment of the International Space Station (ISS)

The Aerospace Industries Association of America represents 300 aerospace manufacturing companies and a U.S. workforce of more than 635,000.

Our nation's space industry generates over \$41 billion dollars a year.

U.S. aerospace and aviation industries represent approximately 10 percent of the GDP.

BACKGROUND

The ISS is a unique laboratory enabled by a substantial national investment. The U.S. should realize the intended rewards by full utilization of the laboratory capabilities.

The NASA Authorization Act of 2005 designated the U.S. portion of the ISS a "National Laboratory". NASA has revised policy requiring third parties utilizing ISS to make payments for prorated Operations and Maintenance costs. Since then, NASA has been pursuing numerous agreements with other government agencies, and private industry to perform research on ISS.

Space Station operations began in 1998. Led by the United States, the ISS Program draws upon the scientific and technological resources of 16 nations including: Canada, Japan, Russia, Italy and 11 members of the European Space Agency.

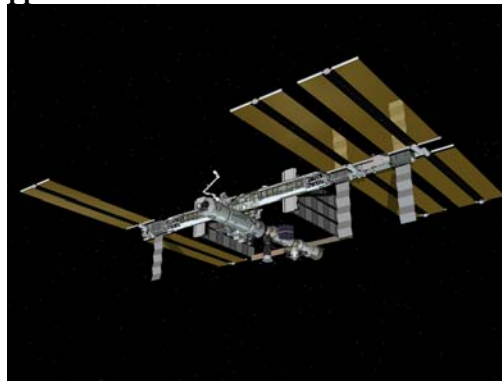
ISSUES

- U.S. crewmembers will be removed from ISS in 2011 unless continued relief from provisions in the Iran-North Korea-Syria Nonproliferation Act of 2005 is enacted.
- Future U.S. competitiveness will be challenged through International research on ISS. U.S. competitiveness is dependant upon utilization by other U.S. government agencies and private industry.
- The current NASA O&M policy could sunset with a change in administration, restoring a major financial hurdle to ISS utilization

- The ISS budget is highly constrained for cargo delivery after Shuttle retirement. Longevity of the platform is dependant upon delivery of cargo and spare parts.
- Continued support of the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) is important to provide commercial resupply, and eventually crew delivery, to the ISS.

RECOMMENDATION

Congress should provide continued relief from the Nonproliferation Act of 2005 to allow Soyuz purchases until a U.S. crew transport capability in the form of Orion, or commercial services, are available. Also, Congressional leadership is needed to support actions which further reduce utilization and access costs to maximize U.S. science returns, including continued support of the COTS program. Congress should provide adequate funding for NASA's ISS program to ensure opportunities are available for U.S. science.



**Contact:
J.P. Stevens
AIA VP, Space Systems Division
703-358-1030
jp.stevens@aia-aerospace.org**