



Human Space Exploration Update (May 12-16, 2014)

International Space Station

- **Russia and ISS:** [NASA asked how to deep Space Station going without Russia](#) Congress asks NASA how it might support the 15 nation International Space Station without Russia. Russia's deputy prime minister suggested Tuesday his country was ready to withdraw from the partnership in 2010.
- **Commencement Speech:** [UConn alum, NASA astronaut gives commencement speech from International Space Station](#) NASA astronaut Rick Mastracchio speaks to engineering students from his Alma mater, the University of Connecticut, during commencement ceremonies on Saturday.

Orion and Space Launch System

- **Why SLS:** [Why NASA needs to build its giant new Space Launch System](#) NASA's Space Launch System heavy lift rocket is designed to open new exploration vistas for uncrewed as well as human missions, say experts. With the first mission just three years away, new larger versions of the SLS should be ready to support the human exploration of Mars in the 2030s.
- **KSC and SLS:** [KSC's future hinges on Space Launch System](#) The future of NASA's Kennedy Space Center rests with the development of the Space Launch System heavy lift rocket, center director Bob Cabana tells the National Space Club's Florida Committee. "If we do not have this capability to fly beyond our planet to explore on a government rocket -- something that is way too expensive for a commercial company to do, we don't need KSC anymore," says Cabana.
- **"I am building SLS":** [Profile: I am building SLS, Eric Gilligan \(NASA, Space Launch System\)](#) Eric Gilligan's expertise is the flight control system for the Space Launch System heavy lift rocket now in development to start U.S. astronauts on missions of deep space exploration. "I've always had an interest in NASA, and working on a fast-paced project like this that will actually fly and that will benefit SLS in the future is really cool," says Gilligan, a young aerospace engineer.

Commercial Space Transportation

- **Boeing CST-100:** [Boeing tries to build a ship space tourists won't hate](#) Boeing looks to its stable of commercial airliners for inspiration as it decorates the CST-100 commercial crew transport capsule.
- **Preserving Competition:** [Commercial crew needs competition](#) Competing U.S. companies are a must for NASA's Commercial Crew Program as it selects participants for its final round of development and flight testing, according to an op-ed from two members of the National Space Society's policy committee. Two technically independent approaches will strengthen orbital access for the space industry, write the committee's chair and deputy chair.

Space Budgets, Policy, Missions, Benefits, International ...

- **Resources for Exploration:** [In-Situ resources a key to deep space exploration](#) NASA evaluates capabilities to produce resources on the moon and Mars, such as oxygen and water, as part of its human deep space exploration strategy.
- **Asteroid Mission:** [NASA's bold plan: Landing people on asteroids](#) U.S. astronauts experiment with tools, space suits as NASA looks to a future mission to a small asteroid. Large NASA swimming pool provided the setting for the test last week.

Florida Highlights

- **KSC and SLS:** [KSC's future hinges on Space Launch System](#) The future of NASA's Kennedy Space Center rests with the development of the Space Launch System heavy lift rocket, center director Bob Cabana tells the National Space Club's Florida Committee. "If we do not have this capability to fly beyond our planet to explore on a government rocket -- something that is way too expensive for a commercial company to do, we don't need KSC anymore," says Cabana.
- **AF Launch Contract:** [Boeing: No new Russian RD-180 engines needed for ULA bulk buy deal](#) United Launch Alliance has stock piled enough Russian RD-180 rocket engines to fulfill a recently awarded contract to ULA for 36 U.S. national security launches. (See also: [First competitive EELV round looks like a two-horse race](#) U.S. Air Force certification processes point to United Launch Alliance and SpaceX as certified contenders next year in competitions for the launch of U.S. national security payloads.)

Citizens for Space Exploration – a pro-space, grassroots advocacy group, supported by the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce, travels to Washington, D.C. to meet face-to-face with Members/staff of Congress to discuss the value of America's investment in space exploration. To sustain that dialogue on a regular basis, Citizens distributes "Human Space Exploration Update" to Congressional offices on a weekly basis and makes it available to our Chamber members as a quick-and-easy way to stay informed on developments impacting NASA and Space Coast Florida. (www.citizensforspaceexploration.org)