



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

Congress

- **Senator Cruz on Space Program:** [Cruz: U.S. must go deeper into space](#) Senator Cruz, new chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Science, Space and Competitiveness, urges greater NASA focus on human space exploration and domestic space launch capabilities. "We must refocus our investment on the hard sciences, on getting men and women into space, on exploring low-Earth orbit and beyond," the Texas lawmaker said. "Russia's status as the current gatekeeper of the International Space Station could threaten our capability to explore and learn, stunting our capacity to reach new heights and share innovations with free people everywhere." (See also: [Cruz says NASA should refocus on 'core' mission, end dependence on Russians](#))

International Space Station

- **One Year Stay at ISS:** [Long haul: Astronauts prepare to spend an entire year on Space Station](#) The first two of what could become more astronauts from the U.S. and its partners in the International Space Station program are preparing to begin a one year mission aboard the orbiting science laboratory in late March.
- **Russian and Extended ISS Operations:** [Russia to decide on future participation in ISS in May, after space program approval](#) Russia is looking to May for a decision on whether it will extend operations aboard the six person International Space Station from 2020 to 2024. The U.S. asked its partners for the extension in early 2014. Russia's response awaits approval of the country's 2016-2025 space budget strategy, which is to include a major increase in spending. Russia has discussed a new independent space station as well.
- **Sarah Brightman to ISS:** [Singer Sarah Brightman preparing for Space Station visit](#) Sarah Brightman's mission is set for September 2015. At \$52 million, the British singer is in line to become the eighth "space tourist" to travel to the International Space Station aboard a vacant seat on a Russian rocket.

Orion and Space Launch System

- **Orion EFT-1 Assessment:** [What did NASA learn from Orion's first test flight? NASA Administrator Bolden tells America Space](#) With the post-flight analysis of the NASA/Lockheed Martin Orion crew exploration capsule that flew on Dec. 5 under way, engineers are finding that the heat shield performed better than expected upon re-entry. While in orbit, the unpowered spacecraft required little of its fuel for maneuvers. "The heat shield was in incredible shape," NASA Administrator Charles Bolden told [AmericaSpace.com](#) after joining Mike Hawes, Lockheed Martin vice president, for a firsthand look at hardware at the Kennedy Space Center. (See also: [Lockheed Martin begins taking apart first flown Orion capsule](#))
- **SLS Engine Testing:** [First SLS engine blazes to life in Mississippi test firing igniting NASA's path to deep space](#) A recent NASA rocket engine test will advance development of the Space Launch System heavy lift rocket.

Commercial Space Transportation

- **ISS Prepares for Commercial Crew:** [NASA plans three February EVAs to kick off 50th year of spacewalking](#) Upcoming NASA choreographed spacewalks from the International Space Station will help to prepare for the docking of space agency nurtured Commercial Crew Program spacecraft developed by Boeing and SpaceX.

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

- **Neil deGrasse Tyson:** [Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson to Host Talk Show on NatGeo Channel](#) Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson is set to host a new late night talk show on the National Geographic Channel. *Star Talk* will debut in April. The concept is focused on science news, comedy and pop culture.

Florida Highlights

- **2015 Launch Plans:** [Cape expects to be world's busiest spaceport in 2015](#) Florida's Cape Canaveral looks to be the world's busiest spaceport this year, according to U.S. Air Force Col. Thomas Falzarano, commander of the Air Force's 45th Operations Group. He forecasts two dozen launchings from Central Florida, possibly more.

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.

http://www.bayareahouston.com/content/c_s_e/c_s_e