



Human Space Exploration Update (June 23-27, 2014)

Congress

- **House Science Committee Hearing on NRC Exploration Report:** [Space Policy Online](#) Legislators had a “warm reception” for the report, but there were “partisan tensions.” There was “disenchantment” with ARM even from Democrats who did not overtly criticize the program like Republicans did.

International Space Station

- **ISS, World Cup Soccer and More:** [Space to ground: Out of this World Cup soccer](#) A look at life aboard the International Space Station last week -- from spacewalks to science experiments and interest in World Cup soccer.

Orion and Space Launch System

- **Orion Parachute Testing:** [NASA's Orion Completes Extreme Drop Test](#) Orion spacecraft lands successfully after complex parachute drop test in Arizona. Orion, in development to carry U.S. explorers on future missions of deep space exploration, is nearing its first space test flight in December.
- **SLS Testing:** [Watch NASA test-fire a 'Mini-Me' version of its new Space Launch System](#) NASA fires off scaled versions of the Space Launch System to chart acoustic forces that might influence the lift off of the largest rocket ever developed.
- **Facts About SLS:** [Some Mind Blowing Facts About NASA's Space Launch System, The World's Largest Rocket!](#) "The Space Launch System happens to be the biggest, most capable rocket ever built by humans ever since the dawn of the space age," the Inquisitr reports. "When it makes its first flight in 2017, it will break some long held records that have been standing for over 40 years."

Commercial Space Transportation

- **Atlas V Launch Pad Upgrades:** [ULA set to upgrade Atlas V pad for human launches of Boeing CST-100 space taxi: ULA and Boeing speak with AmericaSpace](#) United Launch Alliance plans to begin upgrades to launch pad 41 on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., to prepare the complex for launches of Boeing's CST-100 to the International Space Station with astronauts. Boeing is one of three companies competing for a NASA contract to transport crew to the station.

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

- **Pioneering Space:** [Gerstenmaier Praises NRC Human Space Exploration Report](#) Praise from William Gerstenmaier, NASA's associate administrator for human exploration and operations, for a recent National Research Council report on the future of U.S. human space exploration, was in response to NASA Advisory Council questioning. He also stresses a pioneering theme as NASA

plots its way to Mars with humans, terminology that suggests an intent for explorers to settle as they go.

- **Why Explore:** [Answers To `Why Explore Space?](#) NASA seeks an elusive formula of public support to underpin the future human exploration of space.
- **Future Space Suit:** [How to design a spacesuit for landing on an asteroid](#) NASA selects modified space shuttle suits for its Orion crews to wear.
- **Martian Moon Phobos:** [Ahead of Congressional Hearing, NASA Floats Phobos Pit Stop on Road to Mars](#) A NASA official suggests the Martian moon Phobos could become an intermediate stop for humans as they make their way to the Martian surface.
- **Asteroid Mission:** [The latest on NASA's Asteroid Redirect Mission](#) The Planetary Society breaks down NASA's Asteroid Retrieval Mission with the latest details, including an option to snag a boulder from a large asteroid as an alternative to the capture of a small asteroid. In either case, ARM would robotically steer the rock into a stable lunar orbit, where it would be available to astronauts launched in NASA's Orion capsule with the Space Launch System heavy lift rocket.

Florida Highlights

- **CO and Space:** [Why are space companies flocking to Colorado?](#) Colorado finds its space leadership position challenged as NASA and the Pentagon alter the way they do business. Competition from other states picks up as well.
- **RD-180 Engine:** [House approves RD-180 replacement appropriation as U.S. readies more Russia sanctions](#) The U.S. House passed 2015 Defense appropriations bill includes \$220 million to begin development of a U.S. alternative to the import of Russia's RD-180 rocket engine. Russia has threatened to halt the export of the rocket engines in the back and forth with the U.S. over Moscow's intervention in Ukraine.

Citizens for Space Exploration – a pro-space, grassroots advocacy group, supported by the Melbourne 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)