



Human Space Exploration Update (June 27 – July 1, 2016)

2016 Election

- **Space Policy Platform:** [Coalition for Deep Space Exploration recommends space priorities for next president](#) The space industry led CDSE urges a bi-partisan backed strategy by the new administration and Congress in keeping with the 2010 NASA Authorization Act for the preservation of U.S. space leadership. Those principles would improve commercial access to space, while backing key NASA initiative focused on the human exploration of Mars, including the International Space Station, Space Launch System, Orion crew exploration vehicle, James Webb Space Telescope, Mars Insight and the 2020 Mars Lander.

International Space Station

- **Water Purification:** [Tucson firm wins NASA contract for space water-purification system](#) The Paragon Space Development Co., has contracted with NASA to improve the water recycling capabilities of the International Space Station. The technology is considered a critical part of efforts to reach Mars and other deep space destinations with human explorers.

Orion and Space Launch System

- **SLS Rocket Test:** [An afternoon with the world's most powerful rocket booster](#) Space vets cautioned ahead that Tuesday's ear shattering ground test of the solid rocket motor developed for NASA's Space Launch System exploration rocket would rattle fillings and cause loose clothing to wave in the wind. The warnings were true as the Orbital ATK rocket motor prepared for Exploration Mission-1, the first test flight of the SLM and Orion crew capsule planned for late 2018. The unmanned EM-1 test flight will take the capsule around the moon and back to Earth. (See also: [NASA completes final test of SLS boosters before first launch](#))

Commercial Space Transportation

- **Dream Chaser:** [Sierra Nevada's Dream Chaser to provide access to space for countries worldwide](#) Under a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, Sierra Nevada's reusable Dream Chaser spacecraft will offer access to orbital space for member states that desire to conduct experiments. Sierra Nevada announced the agreement on Tuesday. The company was recently selected by NASA to launch supplies to the International Space Station using the winged Dream Chaser.

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

- **Chinese Space Activity:** [Is China militarizing space? Experts say new junk collector could be used as anti-satellite weapon](#) China celebrated the inaugural launch of its new Long March 7 workhorse launch vehicle last weekend. Among the multiple payloads was Aolong-1, or Roaming Dragon. Equipped with a robot arm, Roaming Dragon was designated to remove orbital space debris. But some experts wonder whether Aolong may have an anti-satellite primary mission. (See also: [China's new Long March 7 rocket successful on first flight](#))

- **Blue Origin Rocket Production in FL:** [Blue Origin breaks ground on Florida factory](#) Blue Origin broke ground Tuesday on its new orbital launch vehicle production plant near NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos said the facility will focus on the production of reusable launch vehicles.
- **Searching for Water on Mars:** [NASA considers turning Curiosity rover into a scout for water on Mars mountain](#) NASA's Curiosity rover has been exploring the immense Gale Crater on Mars since August 2012. A future assignment may include the exploration of Recurring Slope Lineae, seasonal salty subsurface water flows, with possible implications for habitable environments. Curiosity is slowly driving up Mount Sharp, a three-mile-high rise.

Citizens for Space Exploration – a pro-space, taxpayer, grassroots advocacy group (www.citizensforspace.org) – has travelled to Washington, D.C. the past 24 years to meet face-to-face with Members/staff of Congress to discuss the value of America's investment in space exploration. In order to sustain that dialogue on a regular basis, Citizens distributes "Space Exploration Update" to Congressional offices on a weekly basis. The intent is to provide an easy, quick way to stay abreast of key human space exploration program and policy developments.