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1999 (36th) Countdown to the Millennium

Apr 28th, 2:00 PM

Paper Session II-B - ISS International Partners Status

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Dan Jacobs, "Paper Session II-B - ISS International Partners Status" (April 28, 1999). *The Space Congress® Proceedings*. Paper 15.
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ISS International Partner Status

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The first elements of the International Space Station (ISS) have been launched, have been docked together, and are on orbit. The Station is currently being operated jointly by NASA and Russian space organizations. More Shuttle flights to ISS, with additional crew visits on board the Station, will occur this year. The next module, the Russian Service Module, is due to join the orbital complex by this the year. This will initiate a period of rapid growth, with new modules and equipment continually added for the next five to six years, through assembly complete. The first crew is scheduled to begin permanent occupation of the ISS early next year. ISS hardware is being developed by Station partners and participants around the world and is largely on schedule for launch. Multiple operations centers are up and running, and international crews are selected and in training. Coordination efforts continue with each of the five partners and two participants, involving 16 nations. All of them continue to face their own challenges and have achieved their own successes. This paper will discuss the status of the ISS partners and participants, their contributions and accomplished milestones, and upcoming events. The ISS, the largest and most complicated peacetime project in history, is flying and, with the help of all the ISS members, will continue to grow.