



ASA Marks 50th Anniversary of Kennedy's Space Goal and Calls For a New Space Vision

Today marks the 50th Anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's historic address before Congress, during which he set forth his visionary and ambitious goal toward "landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth" – within a decade! Seldom has such a singular, concise statement made such a profound and lasting impact on the course of human history - empowering both our nation and the world to reach beyond the "cradle of humanity" to explore both our origins and destiny in space.

Over the past half century, our rendezvous with the Cosmos has radically transformed our lives on Earth, and brought to our collective consciousness far-reaching visions of the possible.

Innovations borne of the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs have forged new inroads to scientific discovery, advanced our national engineering and manufacturing expertise, catalyzed revolutions in communications technology and computer science, enhanced environmental protection of our home planet and understanding of global climate change, and ultimately afforded new frontiers for humankind to explore and develop.

Today, the exploration of space holds equal if not greater potential for innovation in science and technology that can uplift our national economy, enhance global security, educate a technologically proficient workforce, improve healthcare diagnostics and delivery, enable space-based renewable energy systems, and ultimately pioneer pathways to sustainable settlements beyond low-Earth orbit.

President Obama has challenged our nation to enhance humankind's capacity to "work, learn, operate and live safely beyond the Earth for extended periods of time", and to do so in ways that will strengthen our leadership on the frontiers of space. Congress also has called for a space program that will facilitate a "permanent human presence beyond low-Earth orbit", coupling space exploration to both national and global needs. Yet growing federal deficits, rising energy costs, and other acute economic challenges will mandate innovative approaches to reduce the expense, enhance the feasibility and maximize the returns of future space missions – particularly in ways that can benefit all of humanity.

To achieve these goals, we believe our nation needs to embrace a collaborative vision for

space exploration – one that incorporates the monumental knowledge, resources and capabilities developed through our historic Moon, Mars, and other space missions, along with the substantial experience and achievements of other space-faring nations, to chart affordable roadmaps to space.

We also must leverage the substantial assets, expertise and entrepreneurial spirit of our private sector in pioneering the space frontier – not only to maximize the potential benefits from research and exploration, but also to facilitate development and utilization of extraterrestrial resources that can benefit people on Earth, as well as support long-term settlements on other worlds.

Finally – and to ensure sustainability – we need an inclusive, “participatory” approach to space enterprise that will engage and empower the public – an online, interactive portal enabling citizens to envision and design future missions to space (exploring what it means to be “human” in new environments), which in turn will inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, humanists, artists, educators, doctors, entrepreneurs, and other key professionals who ultimately will orchestrate our spaceward migration.

The heady days of Apollo endowed our nation with a pioneering legacy second to none, dismissed “can’t” from our daily lexicon, and fueled human aspirations to reach for the stars. At this decisive juncture in our national development, we must restore America’s “can-do” spirit – forging innovative and sustainable programs that can rejuvenate our economy and invest in our future. For all the reasons cited above, multinational, entrepreneurial, participatory space exploration is demonstrably a good way to make this investment – indeed, “for all Mankind”!

About ASA. ASA is a bi-partisan organization representing the grass roots of American aerospace and aviation. It is a 501(c)3 scientific and educational organization of Lieutenant Governors, Governor-appointed delegates and associate members from the aerospace industry, academia, and non-profit organizations. ASA was formed in 1993 to promote a state-based perspective in federal aerospace policy development and to support state aerospace initiatives that enhance economic development opportunities and student/teacher education outreach including the RWDC. ASA maintains direct ties to the executive branches of state governments throughout the nation. “Within the Aerospace States Association, Hawaii is leading our thinking in this area” said Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell, Chair of ASA. Our state governments can help us reach a future in space in many ways, especially by supporting education and experimentation.”

Learn more about ASA and how to join as an Associate Member at <http://www.aerostates.org/>

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