

DRAFT NEWS

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Citizens for Space Exploration partners with Coalition for Space Exploration to advocate new Vision

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 14, 2005) – The Citizens for Space Exploration and the Coalition for Space Exploration have agreed to join forces to help promote greater public understanding of, and support for, the nation's new Vision for Space Exploration.

"The Citizens for Space Exploration has long been engaged in grassroots efforts to promote NASA and a space exploration agenda for America," said Jeff Carr, communications director for United Space Alliance, a founding member of the Coalition for Space Exploration. "We look forward to working together as partners to ensure the public understands that this new Vision is affordable, achievable and of benefit to the general public."

"The Citizens for Space Exploration is a diverse group of citizen taxpayers who believe that space exploration is a sound investment in our nation's future," said Joe Mayer, Chair of the Citizen's Texas group. "The Vision is sustainable because it accounts for a miniscule percentage of overall spending by the federal government. We can meet basic human needs, protect our nation, and still provide for our future."

The Vision for Space Exploration begins with the return to flight of the Space Shuttle and continues with completion of the International Space Station. As important human research is conducted aboard this orbiting outpost, robot probes will explore our solar system and reconnoiter for human missions to come.

Once the station is complete about 2010, NASA plans to retire the shuttle fleet in favor of a new Constellation-class spaceship capable of taking humans to and from Earth orbit,

and eventually back to the Moon. From there, piloted space flights to Mars and beyond will be possible.

This new era in space exploration will follow an affordable, achievable, stepping stone approach. The Vision is a sustainable journey that carries out its exploration mission on a "go as you pay" basis.

About the Coalition

The Coalition for Space Exploration is a diverse group of companies, nonprofit organizations, trade associations and unions dedicated to supporting the nation's Vision for Space Exploration, which will ensure America remains a leader in space, science and technology – key factors that create jobs, promote the nation's economy, contribute to our national security, and gratify humanity's need to explore. For more information please visit <http://www.spacecoalition.com>.

About the Citizens for Space Exploration

The Citizens, formerly known as National Keep It Sold, or NKIS, has been a voice of grassroots advocacy for America's space program since the early 1990s. The group is comprised of citizens from five primary states (Texas, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana) who are small business owners, students, teachers, business leaders, and county and municipal representatives. Additional information about the Citizens can be found online at <http://www.citizensforspaceexploration.org>.

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