

# Model United Nations of Felsted 2023

Lois P- Felsted School

## Introduction

The International space station program[ISSP] is a multinational<sup>3</sup> collaborative project involving five participating space agencies: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada.)

A total of 15 countries participate in the collaboration. Within this research report it will be discussed about the previous attempts to solve the problem, background information about the ISSP, the main stakeholders concerning the ISSP; those who have invested large amounts of time and resources into the development of the ISS and committees involved in the management of the program.

## Definition of Key Terms

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ISSP<sup>1</sup> - International Space Station Program

ISS<sup>2</sup> - International Space Station

Multinational<sup>3</sup> - including more than 7 different countries in a collaborative project.

Stakeholder<sup>4</sup> - a person who has an interest or concern in a project.

Module<sup>5</sup> - A self contained unit of a spacecraft

Zahra<sup>6</sup> - Translates to sunrise

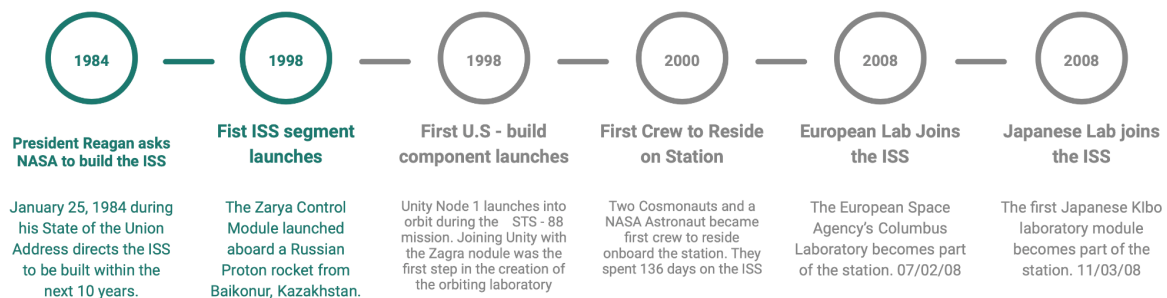
Per annum<sup>7</sup> - per year

Cold War<sup>8</sup> - The Cold War was an ongoing political rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union and their respective allies that developed after World War II. This hostility between the two superpowers was first given its name by George Orwell in an article published in 1945.

Cosmonaut – A Russian astronaut

## Background Information

### Timeline of the Key Milestones in the Creation of the ISS



Additionally, there have been 258 people from 20 different countries onboard the ISS as of May 2022.

## Funding

The ISS has been continuously occupied since November 2, 2000, and costs NASA roughly \$3 billion to run per annum. This is  $\frac{1}{3}$  of NASA's human Space flight budget. Overall, the ESA says that over 10 years it costs approximately €100,000,000 for the ISS for the development, assembly and running costs. It costs per seat on a Soyuz rocket at \$81 million. The ISS is funded by the 15 member nations and other interested parties paying for scientific research on board.

## Political Situations and Risks

Over the past twenty-three years of scientific advancement aboard the ISS there have been over 20 breakthroughs of science aboard, breakthroughs that are fundamental to the progression of the human race. However, due to international conflicts, the international cooperation of the 15 member countries is not guaranteed and Russia's space agency Rosmoscos announced in July 2022, 5 months after they began their invasion of Ukraine (February 2022) that they will be leaving the program as of 2024 with hopes to build their laboratory in space to be operational in 2028. Shortly after the Director, General Dmitry Rogozin tweeted about the possibility of the ISS being in an "unguided de-orbit to impact on the territory of the U.S or Europe " in a threat towards

the ISS. As of 15th July 2022, Rogozin was dismissed from his position. In response, NASA stated that, if necessary, US corporation Northrop Grumman has offered a boost capability that would keep the ISS in orbit.

As of 2023 since the beginning of the ISS there have been at least 20 armed conflicts between the countries of the world and thus far been unaffected; however, due to the Russo-Ukrainian war there are concerns due to Russia leaving the program that the program could be crippled. U.S. legislation has exempted space cooperation from previous sanctions against Russia. However, due to changing geopolitics, this is subject to change and it is expected further sanctions shall be placed upon Russia if any advancements are made in the control of the ISS. At this current moment in time, there are 3 NASA astronauts, 3 Roscosmos cosmonauts<sup>9</sup> and 1 JAXA astronaut.

The risks involved with the changing politics in today's political climate are the risk for those who are on the ISS and how it shall affect further space exploration. Due to changing alliances and mistrust of China on the U.S's behalf NASA is prohibited from engaging in bilateral partnerships with China.

Contractors involved with the management of the ISS and Command centre

## Stakeholders

Please see Link 7 in the bibliography for the ISS Stakeholder Workshop.

[https://www.esa.int/Science\\_Exploration/Human\\_and\\_Robotic\\_Exploration/International\\_Space\\_Station/How\\_much\\_does\\_it\\_cost](https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Human_and_Robotic_Exploration/International_Space_Station/How_much_does_it_cost) - 9/08/17

United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs [UNOOSA] - A committee of UN members with the ability to create legislation about the issues at hand.

Relevant government programs from member countries as well as other countries involved with the UNGA can be accessed [here](#).

Countries involved are Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Japan, Russia, United States.

Private industries such as [SpaceX](#) run by Elon Musk as well as [Northrop Grumman](#), [Axiom Space](#), [Nanoracks](#) and [Sierra Space](#) are all invested in furthering the development of space exploration for the benefit of humanity. As the world moves into the era of privatisation these companies could be the future of space travel and possible manned missions to Mars

## Relevant UN Treaties, Resolutions and Reports

[UNITED NATIONS TREATIES AND PRINCIPLES ON OUTER SPACE](#) - New York, 2002

Above is a collection of all the treaties and principles passed by different UN councils and committees.

## Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Previous attempts to reduce the risk of the militarization of space include [The 1967 Outer Space Treaty](#), banning the placement of; Weapons and Weapons of mass destruction(WMD) as well as prohibiting military activities on celestial bodies, and details legally binding rules governing the peaceful exploration and use of space.

## Possible Solutions

Solutions could include: ensuring that the ISSP remains unaffected by global conflicts it would be suggested to look at the current theoretical ideas for space weaponry and what countries have the means to be able to make them theoretically possible, additionally creating legislation to prevent any acts of war to affect the ISS. Cultural alignment of the individuals is focused on the development of space and is not affected by Geo-Politics.

## Bibliography

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