

Press Release

Airbus and ESA sign agreement to continue ISS operations

Comprehensive services contract for 2020, worth around €16 million, ensures operation and use of European ISS components

Research has been conducted in low Earth orbit in the Airbus-built Columbus laboratory for the past 12 years

[@AirbusSpace](#) [@esaspaceflight](#) [@Space_Station](#) [@ISS_Research](#) [#ISS](#)

Bremen, 25 June 2020 – The European Space Agency (ESA) has signed an annual renewal contract with Airbus on continuing the operation and use of European components on the International Space Station (ISS). The contract is worth around €16 million.

For astronauts conducting research on the ISS, it is essential that all systems function reliably. An international team led by ESA is responsible for smooth operation of the life-support systems, power supply, flight control systems, laboratory equipment and experimental payloads in the European Columbus module.

The agreement between ESA and Airbus is valid until the end of 2020 and includes the following work packages:

- Support during operations, e.g. preparing and conducting experiments, as well as providing engineering support
- Preparing ISS missions, including the integration of ISS payloads
- Maintaining, repairing and developing systems
- Maintaining and developing software

Andreas Hammer, Head of Space Exploration at Airbus, said: “I would like to thank ESA for their continued confidence in our employees’ work. The ISS, the epitome of peaceful cooperation between many nations, has served as humanity’s outpost in low Earth orbit for 20 years. Our dedicated systems experts help to ensure that the astronauts on board the station have a safe environment in which to live and work, enabling them to continue with their valuable research in zero gravity.”

Airbus has a wealth of technical expertise in human space flight and ISS operations, having developed and built the Columbus laboratory, the ATV space transporter, a number of experimental payloads and special flight and mission control computers on behalf of ESA. Since 2004, Airbus has been ESA’s partner in operating the European ISS components. In April, the ISS was expanded by the addition of the Airbus-developed ‘Bartolomeo’ commercial payload platform, enhancing the spectrum of research activities on the space laboratory with a number of additional potential applications.

* * *

Press Release

About Airbus

Airbus is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2019, it generated revenues of € 70 billion and employed a workforce of around 135,000. Airbus offers the most comprehensive range of passenger airliners. Airbus is also a European leader providing tanker, combat, transport and mission aircraft, as well as one of the world's leading space companies. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions worldwide.

Media contact

Jeremy CLOSE

jeremy.close@airbus.com

+44 (0)7766 536 572

This and other press releases and high resolution photos are available on: [AirbusMedia](#)