



## The Interplanetary Space Program for Humanity

### Preamble:

The Interplanetary Space Program for Humanity (ISPH) was grown out of the idea that space can be explored by a non-profit, non-governmental group with the purpose of spreading the wealth of space, whether it be of knowledge or material resources, to all of humanity. Currently NASA is shackled by political whims and funding, a now defunct space shuttle program and an uncertain future in space. The gap is being filled by private enterprises. So far those have been the only options for exploring space. This program will lay out the idea for a third option - a publicly owned non-profit space program.

When President Kennedy laid out the goal for going to the moon, the motive was partly political; to beat the Russians into space. If his plan had a flaw it is this, the goal was short sighted. Once the target of going to the moon was achieved the goals of NASA got dispersed. If Kennedy had said "We need to spread out into space, colonize the inner planets and use those resources to better life here on earth, and as a first step we will put a man on the moon," then the creation of NASA would have had that goal to follow and maybe, by now, we would have human bases on the moon and a man already landed on Mars.

A space program needs to have a far reaching goal to push it beyond itself. It also needs to be free of vested interests and political and corporate controls. In order for a space agency to push beyond the physical obstacles and challenges in this quest, it has to be flexible, creative and innovative in finding solutions to these problems. It cannot do this if it uses old technology because it benefits those making money from it, or stagnated ideas because a group of scientists or engineers are unwilling to think outside the box or fearful of rocking a peer reviewed status quo.

There is a responsibility to the future of the human race in how a space program is set up in present time. One has to extrapolate the ramifications of our actions and decisions into the far future. For some, any thought of the far future of humanity is overshadowed by the demands and struggles of day to day living. For many others, the lessons of history show that the situation we are in today was due to the decisions and actions (and in-actions) of the past. It is easy to look back and see how if only a few things were changed or certain ideas allowed to prosper (and other ideas that have proved detrimental, to languish) we would have a far different society today.

If our current society was space worthy, then we would have different countries fighting over the sovereignty of space. Russia would have one part of the moon, the US another and maybe India and China having another section. And like the nuclear weapons technology, which is now in the hands of questionable political entities, so too will space be have in its ranks countries with questionable ideologies. The idea of space being populated with the same problems we now have on earth is staggering. Another scenario which is developing which can go sideways is the private exploitation of space. It is not too far a leap to imagine that if space is being explored for profit, then those who are invested in it will harvest most of that profit. One only needs to look at the recent runaway greed of certain banks and corporations to see that a future in space for profit will fall into the same morass of monopolized control we have with our present economic system.

What will be explored in the outline of the Interplanetary Space Program for Humanity is a plan to use the vast intellectual resources of this planet to achieve the goal of the eventual colonization of the solar system and a fair system for distributing the benefits of this endeavor.