

Short Title of 1958 Act note set out under section 10101 of Title 51 and Tables.

SUBCHAPTER IV—CONTINUATION, SUPPORT, AND EVOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

§ 18351. Continuation of the International Space Station

(a) Policy of the United States

It shall be the policy of the United States, in consultation with its international partners in the ISS program, to support full and complete utilization of the ISS through at least 2024.

(b) NASA action

In furtherance of the policy set forth in subsection (a), NASA shall—

(1) pursue international, commercial, and intragovernmental means to maximize ISS logistics supply, maintenance, and operational capabilities, reduce risks to ISS systems sustainability, and offset and minimize United States operations costs relating to the ISS;

(2) utilize, to the extent practicable, the ISS for the development of capabilities and technologies needed for the future of human space exploration beyond low-Earth orbit; and

(3) utilize, if practical and cost effective, the ISS for Science Mission Directorate missions in low-Earth orbit.

(Pub. L. 111-267, title V, §501, Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2822; Pub. L. 114-90, title I, §114(b)(1), Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 715; Pub. L. 115-10, title III, §301(c), Mar. 21, 2017, 131 Stat. 23.)

AMENDMENTS

2017—Pub. L. 115-10 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section read as follows:

“(a) POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.—It shall be the policy of the United States, in consultation with its international partners in the ISS program, to support full and complete utilization of the ISS through at least 2024.

“(b) NASA ACTIONS.—In furtherance of the policy set forth in subsection (a), NASA shall pursue international, commercial, and intragovernmental means to maximize ISS logistics supply, maintenance, and operational capabilities, reduce risks to ISS systems sustainability, and offset and minimize United States operations costs relating to the ISS.”

2015—Pub. L. 114-90, §114(b)(1)(A), struck out “through 2020” after “Station” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 114-90, §114(b)(1)(B), substituted “through at least 2024” for “through at least 2020”.

§ 18352. Maximum utilization of the International Space Station

(a) In general

With assembly of the ISS complete, NASA shall take steps to maximize the productivity and use of the ISS with respect to scientific and technological research and development, advancement of space exploration, and international collaboration.

(b) NASA actions

In carrying out subsection (a), NASA shall, at a minimum, undertake the following:

(1) Innovative use of U.S. segment

The United States segment of the ISS, which has been designated as a National Laboratory,

shall be developed, managed and utilized in a manner that enables the effective and innovative use of such facility, as provided in section 18354 of this title.

(2) International cooperation

The ISS shall continue to be utilized as a key component of international efforts to build missions and capabilities that further the development of a human presence beyond near-Earth space and advance United States security and economic goals. The Administrator shall actively seek ways to encourage and enable the use of ISS capabilities to support these efforts.

(3) Domestic collaboration

The operations, management, and utilization of the ISS shall be conducted in a manner that provides opportunities for collaboration with other research programs and objectives of the United States Government in cooperation with commercial suppliers, users, and developers.

(Pub. L. 111-267, title V, §502, Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2823.)

§ 18353. Maintenance of the United States segment and assurance of continued operations of the International Space Station.

(a) In general

The Administrator shall take all actions necessary to ensure the safe and effective operation, maintenance, and maximum utilization of the United States segment of the ISS through at least September 30, 2024.

(b) Vehicle and component review

(1) In general

The Administrator shall, as soon as is practicable after October 11, 2010, carry out a comprehensive assessment of the essential modules, operational systems and components, structural elements, and permanent scientific equipment on board or planned for delivery and installation aboard the ISS, including both United States and international partner elements, for purposes of identifying the spare or replacement modules, systems and components, elements, and equipment that are required to ensure complete, effective, and safe functioning and full scientific utilization of the ISS through September 30, 2020.¹

(2) Data

In carrying out the assessment, the Administrator shall assemble any existing data, and provide for the development of any data or analysis not currently available, that is necessary for purposes of the assessment.

(c) Reports

(1) Report on assessment

(A) Report required

Not later than 90 days after October 11, 2010, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the assessment required by subsection (b).

¹ See References in Text note below.

(B) Elements

The report required by this paragraph shall include, at minimum, the following:

(i) A description of the spare or replacement modules, systems and components, elements, and equipment identified pursuant to the assessment that are currently produced, in inventory, or on order, a description of the state of their readiness, and a schedule for their delivery to the ISS (including the planned transportation means for such delivery), including for each such module, system or component, element, or equipment a description of—

(I) its specifications, including size, weight, and necessary configuration for launch and delivery to the ISS;

(II) its function;

(III) its location; and

(IV) its criticality for ISS system integrity.

(ii) A description of the spare or replacement modules, systems and components, elements, and equipment identified pursuant to the assessment that are not currently produced, in inventory, or on order, including for each such module, system or component, element, or equipment a description of—

(I) its specifications, including size, weight, and necessary configuration for launch and delivery to the ISS;

(II) its function;

(III) its location;

(IV) its criticality for ISS system integrity; and

(V) the anticipated cost and schedule for its design, procurement, manufacture, and delivery to the ISS.

(iii) A detailed summary of the delivery schedule and associated delivery vehicle requirements necessary to transport all spare and replacement elements considered essential for the ongoing and sustained functionality of all critical systems of the ISS, both in and of themselves and as an element of an integrated, mutually dependent essential capability, including an assessment of the current schedule for delivery, the availability of delivery vehicles to meet that schedule, and the likelihood of meeting that schedule through such vehicles.

(2) GAO report**(A) Report required**

Not later than 90 days after the submittal to Congress under paragraph (1) of the assessment required by subsection (b), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the assessment. The report shall set forth an evaluation of the assessment by the Comptroller General, including an evaluation of the accuracy and level of confidence in the findings of the assessment.

(B) Cooperation with GAO

The Administrator shall provide for the monitoring and participation of the Com-

troller General in the assessment in a manner that permits the Comptroller General to prepare and submit the report required by subparagraph (A).

(d) Utilization of research facilities and capabilities

Utilization of research facilities and capabilities aboard the ISS (other than exploration-related research and technology development facilities and capabilities, and associated ground support and logistics), shall be planned, managed, and supported as provided in section 18354 of this title. Exploration-related research and technology development facilities, capabilities, and associated ground support and logistics shall be planned, managed, and supported by the appropriate NASA organizations and officials in a manner that does not interfere with other activities under section 18354 of this title.

(e) Space Shuttle mission to ISS**(1) Space Shuttle mission**

The Administrator shall fly the Launch-On-Need Shuttle mission currently designated in the Shuttle Flight Manifest dated February 28, 2010, to the ISS in fiscal year 2011, but no earlier than June 1, 2011, unless required earlier by an operations contingency, and pending the results of the assessment required by paragraph (2) and the determination under paragraph (3)(A).

(2) Assessment of safe means of return

The Administrator shall provide for an assessment by the NASA Engineering and Safety Center of the procedures and plans developed to ensure the safety of the Space Shuttle crew, and alternative means of return, in the event the Space Shuttle is damaged or otherwise unable to return safely to Earth.

(3) Schedule and payload

The determination of the schedule and payload for the mission authorized by paragraph (1) shall take into account the following:

(A) The supply and logistics delivery requirements of the ISS.

(B) The findings of the study required by paragraph (2).

(4) Funds

Amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 101(2)(B)¹ shall be available for the mission authorized by paragraph (1).

(f) Space Shuttle manifest flight assurance**(1) In general**

The Administrator shall take all actions necessary to preserve Space Shuttle launch capability through fiscal year 2011 in a manner that enables the launch, at a minimum, of missions and primary payloads in the Shuttle flight manifest as of February 28, 2010.

(2) Continuation of contractor support

The Administrator may not terminate any contract that provides the system transitions necessary for shuttle-derived hardware to be used on either the multi-purpose crew vehicle described in section 18323 of this title or the

¹ See References in Text note below.

Space Launch System described in section 18322 of this title.

(Pub. L. 111-267, title V, §503, Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2823; Pub. L. 114-90, title I, §114(b)(2), Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 716.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Reference to September 30, 2020, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), was not amended by section 114(b) of Pub. L. 114-90, which substituted references to “2024” for references to “2020” in other provisions throughout this subchapter. See also section 70907 of Title 51, National and Commercial Space Programs, as amended by section 114(b) of Pub. L. 114-90.

Section 101(2)(B), referred to in subsec. (e)(4), is Pub. L. 111-267, title I, §101(2)(B), Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2809, which is not classified to the Code.

AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 114-90, §114(b)(2)(A), substituted “through at least September 30, 2024” for “through at least September 30, 2020”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 114-90, §114(b)(2)(B), substituted “The Administrator” for “In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator”.

§ 18354. Management of the ISS national laboratory

(a) Cooperative agreement with not-for-profit entity for management of national laboratory

(1) In general

The Administrator shall provide initial financial assistance and enter into a cooperative agreement with an appropriate organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of title 26 to manage the activities of the ISS national laboratory in accordance with this section.

(2) Qualifications

The organization with which the Administrator enters into the cooperative agreement shall develop the capabilities to implement research and development projects utilizing the ISS national laboratory and to otherwise manage the activities of the ISS national laboratory.

(3) Prohibition on other activities

The cooperative agreement shall require the organization entering into the agreement to engage exclusively in activities relating to the management of the ISS national laboratory and activities that promote its long term research and development mission as required by this section, without any other organizational objectives or responsibilities on behalf of the organization or any parent organization or other entity.

(b) NASA liaison

(1) Designation

The Administrator shall designate an official or employee of the Space Operations Mission Directorate of NASA to act as liaison between NASA and the organization with which the Administrator enters into a cooperative agreement under subsection (a) with regard to the management of the ISS national laboratory.

(2) Consultation with liaison

The cooperative agreement shall require the organization entering into the agreement to

carry out its responsibilities under the agreement in cooperation and consultation with the official or employee designated under paragraph (1).

(c) Planning and coordination of ISS national laboratory research activities

The Administrator shall provide initial financial assistance to the organization with which the Administrator enters into a cooperative agreement under subsection (a), in order for the organization to initiate the following:

(1) Planning and coordination of the ISS national laboratory research activities.

(2) Development and implementation of guidelines, selection criteria, and flight support requirements for non-NASA scientific utilization of ISS research capabilities and facilities available in United States-owned modules of the ISS or in partner-owned facilities of the ISS allocated to United States utilization by international agreement.

(3) Interaction with and integration of the International Space Station National Laboratory Advisory Committee established under section 70906 of title 51 with the governance of the organization, and review recommendations provided by that Committee regarding agreements with non-NASA departments and agencies of the United States Government, academic institutions and consortia, and commercial entities leading to the utilization of the ISS national laboratory facilities.

(4) Coordination of transportation requirements in support of the ISS national laboratory research and development objectives, including provision for delivery of instruments, logistics support, and related experiment materials, and provision for return to Earth of collected samples, materials, and scientific instruments in need of replacement or upgrade.

(5) Cooperation with NASA, other departments and agencies of the United States Government, the States, and commercial entities in ensuring the enhancement and sustained operations of non-exploration-related research payload ground support facilities for the ISS, including the Space Life Sciences Laboratory, the Space Station Processing Facility and Payload Operations Integration Center.

(6) Development and implementation of scientific outreach and education activities designed to ensure effective utilization of ISS research capabilities including the conduct of scientific assemblies, conferences, and other fora for the presentation of research findings, methods, and mechanisms for the dissemination of non-restricted research findings and the development of educational programs, course supplements, interaction with educational programs at all grade levels, including student-focused research opportunities for conduct of research in the ISS national laboratory facilities.

(7) Such other matters relating to the utilization of the ISS national laboratory facilities for research and development as the Administrator may consider appropriate.