

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 Comptroller 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)<sup>1</sup> 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 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 Mis-

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

sion 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.

**(d) Research capacity allocation and integration of research payloads**

**(1) Allocation of ISS research capacity**

As soon as practicable after October 11, 2010, but not later than October 1, 2011, ISS national laboratory managed experiments shall be guaranteed access to, and utilization of, not less than 50 percent of the United States research capacity allocation, including power, cold stowage, and requisite crew time onboard the ISS through at least September 30, 2024. Access to the ISS research capacity includes provision for the adequate upmass and downmass capabilities to utilize the ISS research capacity, as available. The Administrator may allocate additional capacity to the ISS national laboratory should such capacity be in excess of NASA research requirements.

**(2) Additional research capabilities**

If any NASA research plan is determined to require research capacity onboard the ISS beyond the percentage allocated under paragraph (1), such research plan shall be prepared in the form of a requested research opportunity to be submitted to the process established under this section for the consideration of proposed research within the capacity allocated to the ISS national laboratory. A proposal for such a research plan may include the establishment of partnerships with non-NASA institutions eligible to propose research to be conducted within the ISS national laboratory capacity. Until at least September 30, 2024, the official or employee designated under subsection (b) may grant an exception to this requirement in the case of a proposed experiment considered essential for purposes of preparing for exploration beyond low-Earth orbit, as determined by joint agreement between the organization with which the Administrator enters into a cooperative agreement under subsection (a) and the official or employee designated under subsection (b).

**(3) Research priorities and enhanced capacity**

The organization with which the Administrator enters into the cooperative agreement shall consider recommendations of the National Academies Decadal Survey on Biological and Physical Sciences in Space in establishing research priorities and in developing proposed enhancements of research capacity and opportunities for the ISS national laboratory.

**(4) Responsibility for research payload**

NASA shall retain its roles and responsibilities in providing research payload physical, analytical, and operations integration during pre-flight, post-flight, transportation, and orbital phases essential to ensure safe and effective flight readiness and vehicle integration of research activities approved and prioritized by the organization with which the Adminis-

trator enters into the cooperative agreement and the official or employee designated under subsection (b).

(Pub. L. 111-267, title V, §504, Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2825; Pub. L. 114-90, title I, §114(b)(3), Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 716.)

#### CODIFICATION

In subsec. (c)(3), “section 70906 of title 51” substituted for “section 602 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 17752)” on authority of Pub. L. 111-314, §5(e), Dec. 18, 2010, 124 Stat. 3443, which Act enacted Title 51, National and Commercial Space Programs.

#### AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (d)(1), (2). Pub. L. 114-90 substituted “at least September 30, 2024” for “September 30, 2020”.

### SUBCHAPTER V—SPACE SHUTTLE RETIREMENT AND TRANSITION

#### § 18361. Sense of Congress on the Space Shuttle program

##### (a) Findings

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Space Shuttle program represents a national asset consisting of critical skills and capabilities, including the ability to lift large payloads into space and return them to Earth.

(2) The Space Shuttle has carried more than 355 people from 16 nations into space.

(3) The Space Shuttle has projected the best of American values around the world, and Space Shuttle crews have sparked the imagination and dreams of the world’s youth and young at heart.

##### (b) Sense of Congress

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is essential that the retirement of the Space Shuttle and the transition to new human space flight capabilities be done in a manner that builds upon the legacy of this national asset; and

(2) it is imperative for the United States to retain the skills and the industrial capability to provide a follow-on Space Launch System that is primarily designed for missions beyond near-Earth space, while offering some potential for supplanting shuttle delivery capabilities to low-Earth orbit, particularly in support of ISS requirements, if necessary.

(Pub. L. 111-267, title VI, §601, Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2828.)

#### § 18362. Retirement of Space Shuttle orbiters and transition of Space Shuttle program

##### (a) In general

The Administrator shall retire the Space Shuttle orbiters pursuant to a schedule established by the Administrator and in a manner consistent with provisions of this chapter regarding potential requirements for contingency utilization of Space Shuttle orbiters for ISS requirements.

##### (b) Utilization of workforce and assets in follow-on Space Launch System

###### (1) Utilization of vehicle assets

In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall, to the maximum extent prac-

ticable, utilize workforce, assets, and infrastructure of the Space Shuttle program in efforts relating to the initiation of a follow-on Space Launch System developed pursuant to section 18322 of this title.

##### (2) Other assets

With respect to the workforce, assets, and infrastructure not utilized as described in paragraph (1), the Administrator shall work closely with other departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and the private sector, to divest unneeded assets and to assist displaced workers with retraining and other placement efforts. Amounts authorized to be appropriated by section 101(2)(B)<sup>1</sup> shall be available for activities pursuant to this paragraph.

(Pub. L. 111-267, title VI, §602, Oct. 11, 2010, 124 Stat. 2828.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

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

#### § 18363. Disposition of orbiter vehicles

##### (a) In general

Upon the termination of the Space Shuttle program as provided in section 18362 of this title, the Administrator shall decommission any remaining Space Shuttle orbiter vehicles according to established safety and historic preservation procedures prior to their designation as surplus government property. The orbiter vehicles shall be made available and located for display and maintenance through a competitive procedure established pursuant to the disposition plan developed under section 613(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 17761(a)),<sup>1</sup> with priority consideration given to eligible applicants meeting all conditions of that plan which would provide for the display and maintenance of orbiters at locations with the best potential value to the public, including where the location of the orbiters can advance educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines, and with an historical relationship with either the launch, flight operations, or processing of the Space Shuttle orbiters or the retrieval of NASA manned space vehicles, or significant contributions to human space flight. The Smithsonian Institution, which, as of October 11, 2001, houses the Space Shuttle Enterprise, shall determine any new location for the Enterprise.

##### (b) Display and maintenance

The orbiter vehicles made available under subsection (a) shall be displayed and maintained through agreements and procedures established pursuant to section 613(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 17761(a)).<sup>1</sup>

##### (c) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to NASA such sums as may be necessary to carry

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.