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A VISION FOR THE FUTURE SPACE EXPLORATION MISSIONS.

UNE VISION POUR LES FUTURES MISSIONS D'EXPLORATION SPATIALE.

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Planet Earth is the cradle of humankind but, at the same time, it is its cage and nobody likes to live in captivity. It is not only a question of curiosity, it is a question of survivability and expansion over time. Achieving the possibility of orbiting around our planet was only the first step to overcome such obligation. Soon there would be a second step, made up by the stability into the Earth-Moon system, creating a suitable environment for colonization and use of local resources. We are very close to have a look at the Martian environment, therefore proceeding to Mars will be the third step, when our capabilities will allow an interplanetary mission. In a distant future, all these achievements would allow humankind an interstellar mission even if it will entail for a review of the human concept of "short term". But, as Lao Tzu says: "Even the longest journey start with a step". Space exploration is the perfect combination of science and technology; the same that allowed Columbus, centuries after the Vikings' lonely enterprise, to land in America again with a permanent settlement, taking advantages of years of evolution in technical knowledge and equipment development. Also, to settle into a new environment will need an enormous leap not only technological but social too. That's why space exploration and conquest wouldn't be a lonely hero's challenge; all together as a team we should prepare ourselves to the future. Therefore, the new vision of the human space exploration envisages the possibility that even private enterprises would support the modern space race for the benefit of the general public and the governmental organizations. Furthermore, the incoming era of the human space flights, from the sub-orbital missions to the interplanetary journey, will introduce new challenges for the aerospace medicine community, in terms of defining good medical practice to select and certify commercial professional space crew and allow space flight participants/passengers the opportunity to explore space.