ISECG is the international forum set up by 14 space agencies to advance the Global Exploration Strategy through coordination of their mutual efforts in space exploration.
The Global Exploration Strategy identifies five themes through which space exploration may serve society:

1. New knowledge in science and technology
2. A sustained presence – extending human frontiers
3. Economic expansion
4. A global partnership
5. Inspiration and education

Space exploration enriches and strengthens humanity’s future. Searching for answers to fundamental questions such as: ‘Where do we come from?’ ‘What is our place in the universe?’ and ‘What is our destiny?’ can bring nations together in a common cause, reveal new knowledge, inspire young people and stimulate technical and commercial innovation on Earth.

The Global Exploration Strategy: The Framework for Coordination was agreed and published in May 2007 by fourteen space agencies. It presents a vision for robotic and human space exploration, focusing on destinations within the solar system where humans may one day live and work.

This reflects a determination to explore our nearest companions – the Moon, Mars and some nearby asteroids. The goal is not a few quick visits, but rather a sustained and ultimately self-sufficient human presence beyond Earth supported by robotic pathfinders.

Sustainable space exploration is a challenge that no one nation can do on its own. Therefore, we will strengthen international partnerships through sharing challenging and peaceful goals.
The International Space Exploration Coordination Group

'Strong cooperation expands the breadth of what any one nation can do on its own... It is important to establish and sustain practical mechanisms to support exploration if humanity is to succeed in implementing long-term space exploration on a global scale.'

Socrates, 470–399 BC

The purpose of ISECG is to advance the Global Exploration Strategy by providing a forum where interested agencies can share their objectives and plans, and explore concepts that make use of synergies. ISECG operates in accordance with the key principles set out in the Global Exploration Strategy — it should be open, inclusive, flexible and evolutionary, effective, and take account of national interests. ISECG is committed to the development of products that enable participating agencies to take concrete steps towards partnerships that reflect a globally coordinated exploration effort.

The members of ISECG are:
- ASI (Italy)
- CNES (France)
- CNSA (China)
- CSA (Canada)
- CSIRO (Australia)
- DLR (Germany)
- ESA (Europe)
- ISRO (India)
- JAXA (Japan)
- KARI (South Korea)
- NASA (United States)
- NSAU (Ukraine)
- Roscosmos (Russia)
- UKSA (United Kingdom)

The Global Exploration Strategy
The Key iSecG Products

‘For the wise man looks into space and he knows there are no limited dimensions’

Lao Tzu, 600–531 BC

ISECG REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE FOR HUMAN LUNAR EXPLORATION

In 2008, several agencies planning lunar exploration activities identified a mutual interest in exploring opportunities for collaboration. Through ISECG, participating agencies conducted a study of lunar exploration technology that could have addressed this exploration goal. The result was the ISECG Reference Architecture for Human Lunar Exploration – a conceptual description of series of components designed to the lunar surface and their potential to support a robust and sustainable lunar surface. The architecture is defined in terms of objectives and relationships by individual agencies in areas such as mission design, technology development, and implementation issues.

While pioneered for lunar exploration, this study serves as a useful model for designing multilateral architectures to explore Mars and other destinations in the solar system. The Reference Architecture demonstrates the importance of agencies working together on a program composed of multiple partners for partnerships. To learn more about the ISECG Reference Architecture for Human Lunar Exploration please see the ISECG website.

ISECG GLOBAL EXPLORATION ROADMAP

The Global Exploration Strategy recognizes that such a roadmap will evolve and respond to new programmatic priorities, scientific discoveries and technological breakthroughs. The Global Exploration Strategy provides an example of how such an initial roadmap can be developed. It identifies the need for an initial study to identify the major components of the Global Exploration Strategy with the goal of developing a Global Exploration Roadmap, to reflect exploration missions and activities planned and under consideration, which will target the destinations where humans can hope to live and work. It is a tool that can help agencies envision and share common goals.

Version 1 of the Global Exploration Roadmap will be available by mid-2011.
Strengthening individual exploration programs as well as the collective effort

In 2006, 14 space agencies* began a series of discussions on global interests in space exploration. Together they took the unprecedented step of elaborating a vision for peaceful robotic and human space exploration, focusing on destinations within the solar system where humans may one day live and work, and developed a common set of key space exploration themes. This vision was articulated in 'The Global Exploration Strategy: The Framework for Coordination', which was released on May 31, 2007. A key finding of this Framework Document was the need to establish a voluntary, non-binding international coordination mechanism through which individual agencies may exchange information regarding interests, objectives, and plans in space exploration with the goal of strengthening both individual exploration programs as well as the collective effort. The coordination mechanism is now called the INTERNATIONAL SPACE EXPLORATION COORDINATION GROUP (ISECG).

* Space Agencies' refers to government organizations responsible for space activities.

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