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UAE to send first Arab astronaut on long-duration mission in Feb

Al Neyadi will become 2nd Emirati in space after Al Mansoori

DUBAI
BY ANGEL TESORERO
Senior Reporter

The UAE is set to send the first Arab astronaut on a long-duration mission to the International Space Station (ISS) next month, the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) announced yesterday.

Sultan Al Neyadi is part of the four-man SpaceX Crew-6 mission composed of Nasa astronauts Stephen Bowen and Warren Hoburg and Russian cosmonaut Andrey Fedyaev.

11th
UAE joins elite club of nations to send its astronauts on long-term space mission

The Falcon 9 launch rocket and Dragon Endeavour spacecraft that will bring the crew to the ISS will be launched from Launch Complex 39A at Nasa's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida no earlier than February 26, according to MBRSC.

Once aboard the space laboratory, Al Neyadi will become a flight engineer for Expedition 69. He will become the second Emirati in space after Hazzaa Al Mansoori, who first flew to the ISS in 2019 for an eight-day mission. The upcoming spaceflight will make the UAE only the 11th country in the world to send its astronauts on a long-term space mission.

Al Neyadi "will conduct numerous in-depth and advanced scientific experiments as part of the mission of the UAE Astronaut Programme that will pave the way for future UAE missions and further push the capabilities for journey beyond Earth."

SEE ALSO P2

Satellite built in Sharjah transmits its first signal

SHARJAH
Gulf News Report

The Sharjah Academy for Astronomy, Space Sciences and Technology (SAASST) of the University of Sharjah (UOS) successfully received the first communication signal from its first CubeSat, 'Sharjah-Sat-1', on Tuesday at 10.02am, once it had reached its orbit around Earth.

Sharjah-Sat-1 is the first miniaturised satellite launched by SAASST on January 3 as part of a series of CubeSats that the UOS intends to launch in cooperation with several national institutions and organisations in the emirate of Sharjah.

The project engineers at SAASST were prepared to receive the first communication signal from the CubeSat after it reached its orbit around Earth. The signal demonstrates the state of the satellite and its readiness to perform its mission after a successful deployment from the main spacecraft. Sharjah-Sat-1 is now in its low Earth orbit, 550km above the Earth's surface. The operation of the subsystem started gradually as the small satellite began its 90 minutes orbit around Earth.

The SAASST engineering team is continuously monitoring the movement of the CubeSat once it passes over the Emirate of Sharjah. More signals are expected to be received and sent to check on the health of all subsystems, especially the iXRD detector and the dual cameras.

UAE ASTRONAUT READY FOR ISS MISSION

Al Neyadi tasked with conducting numerous scientific experiments

DUBAI
BY ANGEL TESORERO
Senior Reporter

UAE astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi is headed to the International Space Station (ISS) for a six-month mission no earlier than February 26, the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) tweeted yesterday.

Al Neyadi, who will be the second Emirati in space after Hazzaa Al Mansoori, will conduct "different scientific experiments and research", MBRSC added.

Al Neyadi is part of the four-man SpaceX Crew-6 mission comprising Nasa astronauts Stephen Bowen and Warren Hoburg and Roscosmos cosmonaut Andrey Fedyaev. This will be the first spaceflight for Hoburg, Fedyaev and Al Neyadi, and the fourth mission to space for Bowen.

The Falcon 9 launch rocket and the Dragon Endeavour spacecraft that will bring the crew to the ISS will be launched from Launch Complex 39A at Nasa's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. The mission is Nasa's (US space agency) sixth crew rotation flight involving a US commercial spacecraft.

Al Neyadi is set to become the first Arab astronaut to conduct a long-duration space mission. He and Al Mansoori, who flew to ISS for an eight-day mission in September 2019, have completed the European Space Agency Columbus training for the SpaceX Crew 6 mission.

Once aboard the space station, Al Neyadi will become a flight engineer for Expedition 69. The upcoming mission will also make the UAE only the eleventh country in the world to send its astronauts on a long-term mission to space. According to MBRSC, Al Neyadi "will conduct numerous in-depth and advanced scientific experiments as part of the second mission of the UAE Astronaut Programme that will pave the way for future UAE missions and further push the capabilities for journey beyond Earth."

Sultan Al Neyadi (right) during a training stint in preparation for the upcoming mission.

6th
ISS crew rotation flight involving a US commercial spacecraft

Al Neyadi and Al Mansoori have completed the European Space Agency Columbus training for the SpaceX Crew 6 mission.

JUPITER ASTEROIDS

UAE-based scientist part of study on cluster asymmetry

ABU DHABI
Gulf News Report

An international team of scientists, including NYU Abu Dhabi researcher Nikolaos Georgakakos, has provided new insights that may explain the numerical asymmetry (unevenness) of the L4 and L5 Jupiter Trojan swarms, two clusters containing more than 10,000 asteroids that move along Jupiter's orbital path around the sun.

Scientists have known that there are significantly more asteroids in the L4 swarm than the L5 swarm, but have not fully understood the reason. The two swarms show almost identical dynamical stability and survivability. Determining the cause of the variance could uncover new details about the Solar System.

"The characteristics of the current Solar System hold as-yet unsolved mysteries into its formation and early evolution," said Georgakakos referring to the paper published in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.