

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

2022—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 117-167 substituted “September 30, 2030” for “September 30, 2024”.

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.

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

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

The 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, 2030. 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, 2030, 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 Administrator 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; Pub. L. 117-167, div. B, title VII, §10815(c), Aug. 9, 2022, 136 Stat. 1738.)

**Editorial Notes**

**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**

2022—Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 117-167, §10815(c)(1), substituted “The ISS” for “As soon as practicable after

October 11, 2010, but not later than October 1, 2011, ISS” and “September 30, 2030” for “September 30, 2024”.

Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 117-167, §10815(c)(2), substituted “September 30, 2030” for “September 30, 2024”.

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 practicable, 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