

Opening Personal Spaceflight

Welcome to the second annual International Symposium for Personal Spaceflight (ISPS-2006) held each year as part of the X PRIZE CUP in Las Cruces, New Mexico - USA. We are pleased to have the Association of Space Explorers (ASE) & the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics (AIAA) join with us this year to enhance your understanding of the requirements & of the thrills & opportunities that await you in a place called space. They will also add depth & breadth from their knowledge & experience about the past & the present progress being made to get you there.

The traveling public & the space business community needs to have safe, affordable & routine access to space. Through ISPS we work to enable synergy necessary to create market driven space transportation serving multiple space markets & their customers. Synergistic relationships among civilian, commercial & military organizations will create new systems, vehicles & destinations. The fundamentals of building ground & flight operation systems & a responsive regulatory environment are necessary first steps for personal spaceflight development. We understand the importance of a combined industry-government role in these undertakings. The environment is changing yet some things will remain constant at least in the near term. The government will take a lead role in establishing a uniform regulatory environment & to ensure public safety. Industry will drive innovation in vehicle development, market development, & financing because it is responding to emerging needs. Both government & industry decisions will be based on these ventures being profitable & contributing to the security & economic well being of the country

The winning of the Ansari X PRIZE in October 2004 by a privately financed & privately developed spaceship, flying out of a civilian spaceport was but the first step in making spaceflight personal. This event quickly was followed this year by the successful orbiting of Genesis I, a test platform & prototype for a future space travel destination – a space hotel. Your chance to live, work & play in space will happen sooner than you might imagine possible but also longer than you would like.

ISPS-2006 will deal with the interrelated factors that will drive the government programs & control the success & timing of commercial ventures — technology, market, human factors, finance & operating & regulating the infrastructure. ISPS-2006 has been expanded to two days & seven tracks featuring guest speakers & expert panels. We have added more time to interact with the exhibitors & other attendees. We also have added a New Mexico adventure to the symposium with an “on-the-trail” ranch barbecue. A tour package is available on Thursday that includes the White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) & NASA’s White Sands Test Facility (NASA-WSTF).

We again look forward to your participation in ISPS-2006, as together we help build the bridge to your personal future in space.

Patricia C. Hynes, PhD

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