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UAE astronauts pass key stage in training

Al Neyadi part of SpaceX Crew 6 mission to ISS in February next year

DUBAI

BY ANGEL TESORERO
Senior Reporter



Courtesy: Dubai Media Office

UAE astronauts Sultan Al Neyadi and Hazzaa Al Mansoori have officially completed the European Space Agency (ESA) Columbus training for the SpaceX Crew 6 mission under the UAE Astronaut Programme, the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) announced yesterday.

The two Emirati astronauts are preparing for the first Arab long-duration astronaut mission as part of the SpaceX Crew Dragon Mission 6 (Crew-6) that will fly to the International Space Station (ISS) in February next year.

Al Neyadi will serve as the primary crew member who will conduct scientific experiments aboard the ISS for six months; while Al Mansoori – the first Emirati astronaut to go to space in 2019 – will serve as the mission back-up.

Intense training

According to MBRSC, both Al Neyadi and Al Mansoori completed “intense training, including handling Expedition 69’s payloads, doing routine maintenance and responding to contingencies. Both astronauts went through theoretical and practical sessions. The entire training took place at the European Astronaut Centre in Cologne, Germany”.

The Columbus lab module, which contains a full set of scientific research equipment, is ESA’s largest single contribution to the ISS and the first permanent European research facility in space.

Al Neyadi and Al Mansoori

Sultan Al Neyadi (left) and Hazzaa Al Mansoori during their training.

The Columbus lab module is ESA’s largest single contribution to the ISS and the first permanent European research facility in space.



Video: Watch highlights of the training completed by UAE astronauts

conducted exercises related to cabin maintenance, quick response to the scenario of water leakage from the laboratory, cabin temperature control and handling of presumed faults in the laboratory.

Launch date

MBRSC said Crew 6 will launch to ISS from Launch Complex 39A at Nasa’s Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, in mid-February. Aside from AlNeyadi, the other crew members are commander Stephen Bowen, pilot William Hoburg, and Russian cosmonaut Andrey Fedyayev.

Crew-6 will spend about six months on the space station, beginning with a brief handover from Crew-5, who arrived in October.



Courtesy: Dubai Media Office

Sultan Al Neyadi and Hazzaa Al Mansoori with other members of the SpaceX Crew 6 mission during training at the European Astronaut Centre in Cologne, Germany.