

MONDAY MAY 9, 2022  
SHAWWAL 8, 1443

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## UAE astronauts get prestigious Nasa pin

Hazzaa Al Mansoori and Sultan Al Neyadi ready for long mission on ISS

### DUBAI

Gulf News Report

The UAE's first two astronauts received the prestigious Nasa pin for completing their general training which has equipped them for long duration work on-board the International Space Station (ISS), it was announced on Sunday.

In a tweet, the Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) said: "Astronauts Hazzaa Al Mansoori and Sultan Al Neyadi were granted the Nasa astronaut's pin af-

ter completing around 20 months of general training at Nasa's Johnson Space Centre. Hazzaa and Sultan are now ready to work on-board the International Space Station."

The MBRSC also released the images of the astronauts wearing the prestigious honour.

### An Arab first

The new training programme has prepared the astronauts for the UAE's long-duration astronaut mission to the ISS.

The upcoming UAE Astronaut Programme's mission, which is set to launch in 2023, will make the UAE the first Arab country and the 11th country globally to send an astronaut to the ISS on a long-duration space mission, according to the MBRSC.



■ Hazzaa Al Mansoori and Sultan Al Neyadi have received the Nasa astronaut's pin after completing around 20 months of general training at Nasa's Johnson Space Centre.