



Scan for our social media

PAMELA REVEALS SECRETS, SCANDALS

The actress' new memoir and documentary reveal shades of her that were least expected



NATION | P4

Details of UAE space mission announced



THE VIEWS | P13

It's time to move away from Covid-19



BUSINESS | P8

Al Mulla, former UAE minister, dies aged 97

Revealed: Grand plans for Crew-6 mission to the ISS

ASTRONAUT AL NEYADI TO BE MISSION SPECIALIST OF THE PRIME CREW

NEW FRONTIERS

DUBAI

BY ASHFAQ AHMED
Senior Assistant Editor

The Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) yesterday revealed details of the second crewed mission of the UAE Astronaut Programme to the International Space Station (ISS) at an event held at the Museum of the Future in Dubai.

Scheduled for launch on February 26 at 11.07 am, the mission will be the first long-duration Arab astronaut mission. UAE's Sultan Al Neyadi is the prime astronaut of the mission while astronaut Hazzaa Al Mansoori is a backup crew member.

The mission will make the UAE the 11th country to send astronauts on a long-duration mission to the International Space Station as well as train and prepare them for spacewalks.

Dubbed Crew-6, the mission will launch aboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, with Emirati astronaut Sultan Al Neyadi being designated as the Mission Specialist of the Prime Crew along with NASA astronauts Stephen Bowen (Spacecraft Commander) and Warren Hoburg (Pilot) and Roscosmos cosmonaut Andrey Fedyayev (Mission Specialist).

Crew-6 is part of Expedition 69, with Roscosmos Cosmonauts Nikolai Chub and Oleg Kononenko, and NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara joining the team at later dates. Expedition 69 will potentially continue to install the final pieces of IROSA, the roll-out solar arrays on the International Space Station, in addition to conducting scientific experiments and research.

Once on-board the ISS, Al Neyadi will have a heavy schedule of experiments and dedicated time for live interactions with various entities, universities and schools. There will be 13 live calls and 10 ham radio interactions, and sessions for the community outreach programme with Emirates Literature Foundation, which will be allocated throughout the six months.

The details of the mission



Courtesy: MBRSC

■ UAE astronauts Sultan Al Neyadi (left) and Hazzaa Al Mansoori during the event held to announce details of the second crewed mission of the UAE Astronaut Programme to ISS.

BIG EXPECTATIONS

During his 4,000 hours on-board ISS, Sultan Al Neyadi will conduct over 19 advanced research experiments and studies in collaboration with NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), Canadian Space Agency (CSA), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) on a range of topics that include: the cardiovascular system, back pain, technical demonstration, epigenetics, immune system, fluid science, plant biology, material science, sleep analysis and radiation.

The mission will further comprise education outreach and engagement efforts to inspire the next generation of scientists and explorers. As part of the UAE Astronaut Programme Grants Research Programme, MBRSC has selected two research projects from the Mohammad Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences for the mission. The first will focus on assessing how space flight environment affects cardio-postural interactions, while the second project will investigate dental/oral cells in a microgravity-simulated environment on the ground.

were announced at the star-studded event, which also witnessed the unveiling of the mission patch. The event was attended by Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs; Khalifa Belhouli, CEO of Dubai Future Foundation; Dr. Amer Ahmad Sharif, CEO of Dubai Academic Health Corporation and President of Mohammad Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences; Salem Al Marri, Director General of MBRSC; Emirati astronauts Sultan Al Neyadi and Hazzaa Al Mansoori; and other dignitaries, partners and the media.

Hamad Obaid Al Mansoori, Chairman of MBRSC said:

"Guided by the vision of our wise leadership, the UAE's space sector has grown significantly over the past decade, with major achievements, including the Emirates Mars Mission, the Emirates Lunar Mission and the upcoming first long-duration Arab astronaut mission."

Formidable feat

Salem Al Marri, Director General of MBRSC, noted: "This will not only be the first long-duration space mission undertaken by our astronauts, but also the first by a non-ISS partner country, which is an achievement in itself."

Al Neyadi, speaking to the

Salem Al Marri, Director General of MBRSC, unveiled the UAE Mission 2 patch while paying tribute to Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The logo signifies the six-month mission's crucial role in advancing our understanding of space.

audience at the event, said that both astronauts have completed the mission assignment training, in addition to general training totalling more than 1,700 hours with NASA, over two years.

Speaking about the upcoming mission, Sultan Al Neyadi said: "With the second mission to the ISS, we are raising the limits of our ambitions and raising the UAE flag ever higher."



Get to know every aspect of the story in detail online