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Courtesy: Twitter

■ Sultan Al Neyadi shared images of the UAE flag on the wall of Nasa's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory. The facility's training pool simulates the microgravity environment in space.

Astronaut Al Neyadi finishes Nasa training for ISS mission

Emirati thanks NBL lab staff for helping him prepare for long space expedition

DUBAI
BY SAJILA SASEENDRAN
Senior Reporter

The UAE's second astronaut, who is embarking on the first long-duration Arab astronaut mission to the International Space Station (ISS), has revealed that he has finished his training in a Nasa facility.

On February 26, Sultan Al Neyadi is slated to take off for a six-month mission to the ISS.

Yesterday, he announced on social media that he has finished his pre-mission training at the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory (NBL) of Nasa.

"Last week I finished my last NBL with Astronaut Steve Bowen. And what made the moment more special is seeing the UAE flag decorating the NBL wall. I am truly grateful to all the employees, engineers



■ Al Neyadi during his training. He is part of a four-member SpaceX Crew-6 mission to ISS set for launch on February 26.

and divers in this great facility for getting us ready for the mission," he tweeted.

He also shared images of the UAE flag on the wall of the lab, the massive neutral buoyancy pool in the facility and both Bowen and him in action during the training preparation.

It is in this NBL pool that astronauts go underwater to simulate the microgravity environment in space. The 6.2

million-gallon training pool and related testing technologies offer a controlled, secure environment for astronauts to train, execute project activities pre-space flight, and interact with a mock ISS set-up.

Al Neyadi is part of a four-man SpaceX Crew-6 mission composed of Nasa astronauts Bowen and Warren Hoburg and Roscosmos cosmonaut Andrey Fedyaev.