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New Emirati crew member selected to join Nasa programme

Al Suwaidi to join three primary crew on 45-day mission in HERA on November 1

DUBAI

Gulf News Report

The Mohammad Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) has selected Obaid Al Suwaidi as the Emirati crew member for the second analogue study of the UAE Analog Programme.

The study will be carried out as part of Nasa's Human Exploration Research Analogue (HERA) Campaign 7 Mission 4, scheduled to begin on November 1.

Al Suwaidi will join the primary crew, including Kristen Magas, Tiffany Snyder, and Anderson Wilder, in a 45-day mission within the 650-square-foot HERA facility at Nasa's Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas.

Al Suwaidi is part of the fourth group of volunteers to participate in an analogue study in HERA this year. The first phase was completed on March 11, while the second and third were completed on June 25 and September 23.

HERA habitat

The three-storey HERA habitat, designed to replicate the conditions of space exploration on Earth, offers a unique platform for studying human adaptability to isolation and confinement.

The crew will undertake

CAPTAIN ENGINEER



Obaid Al Suwaidi, a captain engineer in the Ministry of Defence, has extensive experience in civil and marine engineering. He has a bachelor's degree in engineering and master's degrees in civil and environmental engineering and project management. Al Suwaidi is an avid horse rider, swimmer, and runner.

a simulated 'walk' on Mars, along with cultivating vegetables and shrimp farming.

18 health experiments

The crew will participate in 18 human health experiments, focusing on physiological, behavioural and psychological responses in a controlled environment.

Adnan Al Rais, Assistant Director General - Space Operations and Exploration Sector, MBRSC, said: "The findings from this study will play a crucial role in shaping future strategies for deep space missions, reinforcing the UAE's position in international space exploration."