



Risk Management Programs For Space Station Utilization Are Key Part of Station's Future

Space Partnership International (SPI) Lowers Risk for Commercial Station Users

With the successful completion of the STS-131 mission, the space company NanoRacks is poised to begin providing affordable, repeatable and reliable access to the U.S. National Laboratory on the International Space Station.

The STS-131 crew delivered the first NanoRack Research Platform to the International Space Station, where it will operate in the Japanese Kibo Laboratory under an arrangement with NASA.

Critical to the successful operations of the NanoRacks program is lowering the technical risks associated with space operations. To achieve this, NanoRacks turned to Space Partnership International a unique venture providing a one-stop business development, engineering, financial, risk management and insurance solution which is focused on the commercial space and New Space communities.

"For NanoRacks, it is vital that we offer customers and ourselves the finest business development and risk management tools—and only SPI is willing to work with the smaller New Space customers—with the same sophisticated products that the bigger satellite players use," explained Managing Director Jeffrey Manber.

SPI has provided NanoRacks with ongoing support including insurance packages that minimize operational risks. "NASA's new budget for FY '11 makes clear that the future of the American space program will include the emerging commercial space sector and commercial space station utilization. We are committed to working with government and commercial space participants to maximize their chances of success," said Jean Michel Eid, SPI's Washington, DC-based Partner.

As many as 16 experiments can be inserted into a NanoRacks platform. Each is designed to plug into a standard USB connector providing electrical and data connectivity. A second platform is manifested on the next shuttle mission as well. Once operational, the NanoRack Platforms will provide low cost research facilities for educational and commercial users.

"This is a new era of space utilization" says Jeff Temple-Heald, of SPI's London-based Partner, "but the business, technical and financial challenges are significant whether it is a traditional satellite operator or an entrepreneurial "New Space" company like NanoRacks. We are ready to do our part to develop this market by providing the same sophisticated tools to New Space

operators that, until recently, only the larger organizations could access”.

NanoRacks is working in partnership with NASA under a Space Act Agreement as part of the utilization of the International Space Station as a National Laboratory. In the first stage of development, two Platforms are manifest for the International Space Station. Five customers, ranging from a California high school to a commercial protein crystal growth project, have been signed pre-launch.

Space Partnership International provides a new approach in bringing together the skills of well known and respected companies with expertise drawn from across the aerospace, telecommunications, IT and insurance industries to provide integrated business solutions for commercial space companies. The venture is positioned as the 4th largest space insurance broker working with other co-venture parties who will offer a full spectrum of support to clients in solving their challenges ranging from initial business development, financing assistance, legal and regulatory advice, enterprise risk management, satellite system engineering to space insurance as a one-stop service.

For more information, please visit <http://www.nanoracks.us>; to learn more about SPI go to <http://www.spacepi.com>