

GALACTIC SUITE

PRESS RELEASE

Galactic Suite's space hotel will have a star gate

The habitation and service modules will be completed with a fifth called "Star Gate".

The complexity of the project delays the launch of its first module to 2014.

(Barcelona, January 13th, 2012). The Barcelona based space tourism company Galactic Suite, explained that its planned space hotel will also have an additional module to allow the space tourists for short spacewalks or EVAs, acronym for extra vehicular activities.

This new module will be the last to join the station and it will have hatches that will allow isolate it completely to the rest of the station before opening the gate to an even more amazing journey: the view of the stars and the Earth without any other mediation than the spacesuit.

This spacewalk will be offered as an additional service package to the stay at the hotel and it will require special training for the space tourists, who will be qualified as suitable or unsuitable for the experience. The spacewalks mean higher radiation doses to astronauts as well as additional risks of collisions with micrometeorites. For these reasons they will not extend in time such as the ones done by the International Space Station astronauts, real working days in space. "It will be brief but intense," said Xavier Claramunt, promoter of the space hotel idea, "The idea is to get closer to the fabulous brightness of stars, and the vertigo of floating above the Earth".

One mission, two phases

The building of the orbital hotel by means of interconnected modules will take place in two stages. In the first stage, the base module will be sent into orbit with all the necessary services to operate autonomously. This module, with a diameter of four meters and a length of almost eight, would permit a stay of four to seven days in the hotel for two passengers and one crew member, the same capacity of the only system that currently provides access to orbit, the Russian Soyuz crafts launched from Kazakhstan. The Soyuz craft will remain docked to the hotel module throughout the passengers' stay, and will also have a "lifeboat" to return to Earth in case of emergency.

The second phase envisages the extension of this first module with the automatic assembly of three more modules, totaling four. These modules will be similar to the first one but will require modifications to allow the assembly. This extension will enable a total of six passengers and two crew members to travel to the hotel, o development of new reusable crafts is scheduled to be able to orbit the Earth.

GALACTIC SUITE

Reuse of existing technology

The company has decided to reuse existing European technology with minimal modifications to answer the special requirements which the accommodation of the space tourists impose to the environmental control and life support systems. The complexity added by these requirements delayed the estimated date for the start of operations, moving to 2014 the launch of the first modified ATV module.

In view of the success of the Jules Verne missions, with the launch and return of the first automated transport vehicle (ATV) supply module of the International Space Station (ISS), and Columbus, to hook up a new scientific laboratory to the station, the company will set up conversations with EADS-Astrium that will culminate in the evaluation of these technologies to build the orbital hotel.

The ATV is a disposable unmanned craft that supplies the ISS periodically by delivering almost eight tones of supplies, including food and water for the astronauts, fuel and gas for the station. It also makes it possible to raising the station to keep its orbit. It is comprised of two independent segments, the service module with all the impulsion and control systems of the spacecraft, solar panels, etc., and the loading module that stores fuel tanks and other supplies classified on special racks. This last module is pressurized, and once docked to the space station, it enables the inhabitable volume to be joined to the station, and it would be the base for the rooms of the orbital hotel.

The Columbus module is the greatest contribution of the European Space Agency (ESA) to the space station since it was sent into orbit in February 2008. It is one of the station's main laboratories for all types of biological, physical and material research, with highly advanced characteristics for heat control, environmental control or protection from micro-meteorites.

Compañía de turismo espacial

Galactic Suite es una compañía privada de turismo espacial, fundada en Barcelona en 2006 y liderada por Xavier Claramunt, que aspira a ofrecer la primera experiencia global de turismo espacial y que combinará un programa intensivo de entrenamiento para astronautas con un relajante programa de actividades en una isla tropical como proceso de preparación al viaje espacial. Su objetivo último es hacer que el turismo espacial llegue al público general desarrollando la primera cadena mundial de hoteles espaciales.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN: Email: press@galacticsuite.com Tel. 00 34 619 47 77 84