



## EXCALIBUR • ALMAZ

### **Fly me to the moon - British firm announces details of first manned lunar mission since Apollo and invites would-be space explorers to participate in this epic new voyage**

PRESS RELEASE

**London, 19 June 2012** – The British Isles space-exploration company, Excalibur Almaz (EA), today confirmed financial details and market assumptions concerning its bold plan to fly people to the lunar orbit for the first time since 1972. To celebrate the fortieth anniversary of mankind’s last giant leap into the heavens, EA is inviting members of the The firm, based in the Isle of Man, a centre in the burgeoning British space industry, is light years ahead of rivals in the race to become the first commercial enterprise able to offer tickets for members of the public to explore deep space. It owns a fleet of six flight-proven spacecraft capable of crewed space missions for months at a time. So rather than attempting to briefly glide into low earth orbit, today’s intrepid explorers are invited to fly to the Moon or 61,000 km beyond to Libration Point 2. This quantum leap of ambition is, however, grounded in commercial reality.

Speaking at the Royal Aeronautical Society’s Third European Space Tourism Conference in London, Art Dula, Founder of Excalibur Almaz, unveiled the details of the project – including, for the first time, the business case underpinning its commercial viability. This case is based on independent research, conducted by the prestigious Futron Corporation, which outlines the economics behind commercial space voyages and, in particular, the new EA lunar missions.

To emphasise this point, EA will exhibit one of its twice-flown spacecraft at Space Base London (Spacebaselondon.com) a one-off event being held at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre from 18-20 June 2012. The third day of this spectacular exhibition is free for the public to attend and represents a unique opportunity to see a vessel of this type in Central London and meet a highly decorated cosmonaut.

“I can say with confidence that Excalibur Almaz fleet is capable of sending a crew deeper into space than any other existing vessel”, explained Art Dula, as he spelled out the economics and practicalities of these voyages. “Our space-stations and re-entry shuttle vessels, in combination, will enable us to take ordinary members of the public to the Moon as early as 2015” he continued. “No other commercial enterprise has mission-ready technology suitable for crewed space flights, based on proven technologies. The EA fleet is derived from proven hardware which has spent thousands of days in space already and includes an emergency-escape system which is fully flight tested. The Zarya module currently aloft docked to the ISS is a forerunner of our lunar-capable spacecraft.”

#### **About Excalibur Almaz**

Excalibur Almaz (EA) is a British commercial space-transport company based in the Isle of Man offering an entirely viable means for crewed visits to Lunar Orbit or other destinations. It could provide a base facility for the mining of Near Earth Asteroids, transport payloads, and conduct micro-gravity scientific research or lunar mapping services. EA already owns a fleet of six spacecraft proven to withstand the rigours of crewed space-travel.

The most complex challenge involved in space travel is building a vessel able to withstand the immense levels of





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pressure. Each of the two EA space stations boasts an impressive space-proven pressurised-volume of around 90 cubic meters. To modernise the life support, guidance, or propulsion systems of these spacecraft will require a comparatively modest investment over some three years. The huge level of government spending on the creation of these vehicles today enables EA to offer safe and cost-effective space transportation services. This represents by far the most expeditious route to accomplishing these exciting missions.

### **Ready to Serve**

The EA fleet was purchased from NPO Mashinostroyenia, the Russian firm that built the Almaz military space-programme. It is comprised of four reusable re-entry vehicles (RRV) that can carry three passengers each, plus two large Salyut-class space stations equivalent to modules flown in space on every space station since 1972. The capsules will deliver crew or cargo to the EA space stations which, once docked together, form a viable transportation system to the moon.

These vessels are at a very high status-level of space readiness and, crucially, have an emergency-escape system that is proven to work. Various ground and flight tests performed include nine successful capsule flights, re-entries and soft landings. One EA capsule was flight-tested three times in space while another stayed in orbit attached to a Salyut space station for 175 days. The capsules are reusable for another 15 spaceflights while the two EA space stations both offer up to fifteen years' further service.

### **About Art Dula**

Art Dula is a world-renowned spaceflight expert with 30 years' experience at the pinnacle of this field. The prestigious space-tech organisations he has represented include Space Services Inc (which launched the first private US space-vehicle) and Spacehab Inc (which built experiment containers for NASA). Mr Dula is a former Director and President of the first US-Russian aerospace joint-venture and a distinguished academic who specialises in the legalities of space travel. He is a recipient of the US National Space Society's Space Pioneer award as well as the Korolev and Gagarin Medals from the Russian Federation of Cosmonautics. Art Dula founded Excalibur Almaz in 2005.

For more information visit [www.spacebaselondon.com](http://www.spacebaselondon.com) or [www.excaliburalmaz.com](http://www.excaliburalmaz.com)