

The UAE: A Global Leader in Space Exploration

Through close collaboration with US partners, the United Arab Emirates is inspiring a new generation of space explorers and scientists.

In February 2021, the UAE became the first Arab nation – and only the fifth globally – to reach Mars. Developed in partnership with US educational institutions, the UAE's Hope probe entered into orbit around the Red Planet on February 9. The Hope probe is now collecting data to help scientists better understand Martian atmospheric dynamics and climate cycles.

The UAE's achievements and investment in the space sector are creating a newfound sense of hope and opportunity for young people. Emirati women are at the forefront of the UAE's space industry, reflecting a national commitment to empower women in STEM careers.

- The average Emirates Mars Mission team member is 27 years old.
- Women make up 80% of the Emirates Mars Mission science team.



Rendering of the Mars Hope Probe.



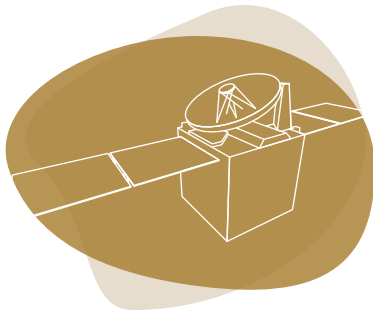
Hazza Al Mansoori, the first UAE astronaut, poses with NASA astronaut Jessica Meir aboard the International Space Station in 2019.

Recent Milestones

- On February 9, 2021, the UAE's Hope probe arrived at Mars, making the UAE the first Arab nation to successfully reach another planet.
- UAE pilot Major Hazza Al Mansoori became the first Emirati astronaut in September 2019, joining NASA astronaut Jessica Meir on a mission to the International Space Station.
- In 2018, the UAE launched the KhalifaSat Earth Observation imaging satellite, the first spacecraft built entirely by Emirati scientists and engineers.



The UAE and USA: Partners in Space Exploration



US government, academic, and private sector partners strongly support the UAE's growing space industry. Most recently, the UAE Space Agency joined NASA and other space agencies in signing the Artemis Accords, which aim to further collaboration on lunar exploration.

UAE-US cooperation in the space sector extends beyond the government level. In fact, **US academic partners were key to the development of the Emirates Mars Mission.** Joint education initiatives enable Emirati students to study space science at top US universities. Furthermore, an increasing number of American companies operating in the space industry are establishing regional offices in the UAE.

Emirati engineers worked closely with US scientists to develop the Hope Probe and its instruments. Partner universities include:

- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of California, Berkeley
- Arizona State University



Testimonials

Jim Bridenstine, Former NASA Administrator

“The United States of America is very excited about having [the UAE] as a partner in human spaceflight. All of us can do more when we work together, and the United Arab Emirates is a shining example of what can be done when we do, in fact, work together.”

Dr. Ellen Stofan, John and Adrienne Mars Director, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

“The [Emirates Mars Mission] reminds me of another country, fifty years ago now, that went from having no space agency at all to sending people to the Moon. That spirit of Apollo is what I have watched happening in the UAE, and they will get the same results: inspiring a generation to go out and do the impossible.”

Mike Gold, Associate Administrator for Space Policy and Partnerships, NASA

“While it’s terrific what all the new emerging space agencies are doing, the UAE is unique because you don’t just talk – you act. You fund programs, you enact these capabilities, and it has been amazing to see how far you have come in such a short time.”



For more information about the UAE's space exploration initiatives, visit <https://www.uae-embassy.org/>