The MIT Space, Policy and Society research group and the GW Space Policy Institute, with the help of CSIS, are hosting a forum on the rationales and objectives of human spaceflight. At this moment of transition in the U.S. space program, it is time to reconsider the fundamental questions: Why fly people into space? What is the role of a government-funded, human spaceflight program?

The conversation builds on a recent white paper by the MIT Space, Policy, and Society research group (http://web.mit.edu/mitsp) recommending a framework of primary objectives of spaceflight to guide the human space program.

Panel 1: Objectives of human spaceflight
- When is human presence necessary in space?
- What objectives are worth the opportunity cost?
- How do we decide what objectives are worth the risks to human life?
  - Prof. David Mindell
    Director, MIT Science, Technology, and Society Program
  - Prof. Jeffrey Hoffman
    MIT Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, former NASA astronaut
  - Dr. Dana Yoerger
    Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
  - Prof. Asif Siddiqi
    International space historian, Fordham University
  - Dr. Dan Lester
    Astronomer, University of Texas, Austin

Panel 2: Human spaceflight and national priorities
- Implications of primary objectives for current human spaceflight policy?
- How to align human spaceflight with national priorities?
  - Prof. Scott Pace
    Director, GW Space Policy Institute
  - Mark Craig
    NASA retiree and SAIC NASA Account Manager
  - Wayne Hale
    NASA Deputy Associate Administrator for Strategic Partnerships
  - John Tylko
    Vice President for Business Development, Aurora Flight Sciences
  - Dr. Scott Uebelhart
    Postdoctoral associate, MIT Space, Policy, and Society

Closing remarks: Dr. John Logsdon, National Air and Space Museum

To RSVP for this event, please email mitsps@mit.edu