

**Private Astronaut Missions to the International Space Station
for Flight Opportunities in 2023 and 2024
Questions and Answers**

Questions and Answers 1 – 7:

Q1) Would NASA consider previous military aviators for the crew command position?

Answer: The requirement for the PAM Commander is that they must be a former, flown NASA astronaut; if the military aviator is a former, flown NASA astronaut then they would be considered.

Reference: Refer to PACE Annex 1, Appendix F in the Technical Reference Library (TRL)

Q2) What is expected/minimum amount of time and budget for ISS resources on orbit per day or for 2-week mission?

Answer: This is dependent on resources required for the proposed mission schedule and objectives. The commercial use and pricing policy has the per-mission costs for ISS crew time and integration services, per day costs for items such as crew provisions, and per kg costs for acquiring NASA upmass/downmass/disposal capabilities.

Reference: Refer to the [commercial pricing policy](#) and generic PRISM in the TRL

Q3) Why is being a previously flown NASA astronaut is the requirement for the crew commander role?

Answer: NASA requires that the PAM commander be a former flown NASA astronaut to ensure PAMs are executed in a manner that both complements and minimizes impact to the overall ISS mission.

Former NASA astronauts:

- Provide guidance for the Private Astronauts (PAs) during pre-flight preparation through mission execution
- Serve as a link between the resident ISS expedition crew and the PAs, reducing risk to ISS operations and PAM/ISS safety

Reference: See Special Notice No. 80JSC022PAMINFORMATION “Requirements Updates for Private Astronaut Missions” posted via sam.gov on August 1, 2022.

Q4) Can Providers subcontract astronauts from space agency's of other, friendly countries?

Answer: The requirement is that the PAM Commander be a former, flown NASA astronaut. The PAM Commander does not need to be a direct employee of the PAM provider.

Q5) Where can the "Attachment D: PAM Commander Reference Form" be found?

Answer: On the NSPIRES page for this solicitation, linked under “Other Documents”.

Reference: See International Space Station NASA Research Announcement Solicitation, [Attachment D: PAM Commander Reference Form](#)

Q6) The solicitation requires three references from the period that the proposed PAM Commander served in their former government astronaut role. Please verify that the references do NOT have to be current government astronauts employed by the Flight Operations Directorate.

Answer: Yes. The references do not have to be current government astronauts employed by the Flight Operations Directorate.

Reference from NRA Solicitation: "Proposers shall have their references submit the PAM Commander Reference Form for three references, preferably from previous supervisors or managers in the Flight Operations Directorate, while the proposed PAM Commander served in their former government astronaut role."

Q7): Any organization requesting NASA funds through the proposed investigation must be listed on the Proposal Cover Page. NASA will not fund organizations that do not appear on the Proposal Cover Page. Each individual team member (e.g., PI, co-investigators, etc.), including all personnel named on the proposal's cover page, must be individually registered in NSPIRES. This applies equally for proposals submitted via Grants.gov, as well as for proposals submitted via NSPIRES."

If not requesting funds directly for these proposals, does proposing NASA buy-back options for cargo and crew time count as requesting funds?

Answer: Yes.