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designed to sustain propulsion, as well as creating house crews, exactly the expertise the US needs. That sort of module would increase the Orion crew's living capacity beyond the small one-room compartments currently in use.

When consulting with their American counterparts, the Russians showcased hardware that will soon be available for building deep-space living quarters. For instance, ISS's small docking compartment, built by RKK Energia, could be adapted as a 10-ton addition to the habitat, and would include cargo space, sleeping quarters and a discrete life-support system.

Every part of the base, which could grow over time, could launch in a few years' time, by receiving cargo from SLS rockets. Russia could also supply an all-encompassing module that would include large living quarters, propulsion and power for the crew.

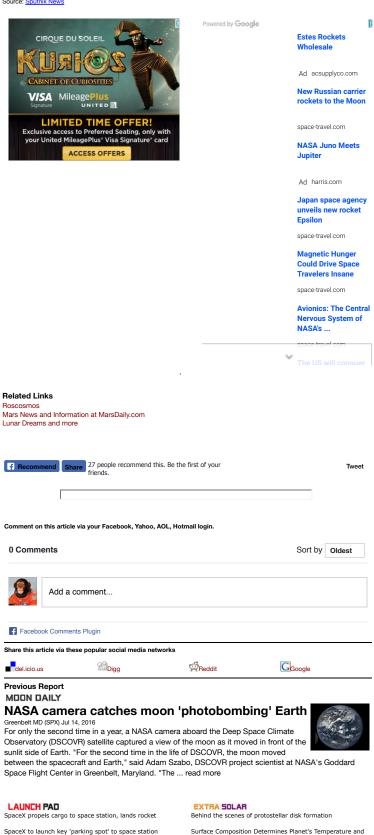
America wouldn't be the only side to benefit from this collaboration. Without assistance from the US, Russia would not be able to develop anything close to the SLS until at least the year 2030.

For now though, these plans remain on the drawing board. The most recent proposals for Russo-American space cooperation were offered last week at an ISS research and development conference in San Diego.

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1 of 3 7/30/16, 5:58 PM William Gerstenmaier, NASA's associate administrator for Human Exploration and Operations, said the preparation is impressive, but hasn't been approved by NASA. "Until we look at them," he said, "I can't pass judgment whether they are viable or not. It is encouraging that the industry is doing it on its own... and it is consistent with what we are thinking about, including going to cislunar space... So when we, the government, decide something to do, the industry has (already) done its homework."

Source: Sputnik News



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