

International Space Station (ISS)

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It is a modular, habitable, microgravity laboratory in low Earth orbit, orbiting 400 km above Earth.



It was **launched in 1998**, and has been continuously inhabited since 2000, making it **one of the longest-running human space missions in history**.



It is operated collaboratively by **five major space agencies**: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), ESA (Europe), JAXA (Japan) and CSA (Canada).

Key Features:



It is the **largest human-made structure in space**, with a mass exceeding 400,000 kg, and a structure nearly 109 meters long.



Power is supplied by **solar arrays** generating tens of kilowatts of electricity.



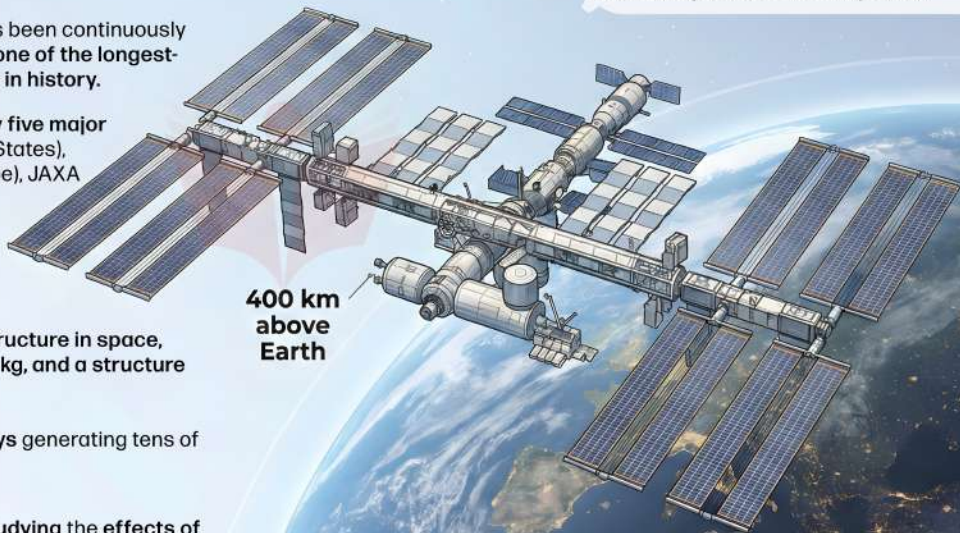
The ISS plays a crucial role in **studying the effects of long-term space radiation and microgravity on the human body**, helping scientists understand bone loss, muscle atrophy, and immune system changes.

Context



2030

The International Space Station (ISS) is scheduled to be de-orbited in 2030, marking the end of nearly three decades of continuous human presence in space.



400 km
above
Earth