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**AIAA WELCOMES FINAL AUGUSTINE COMMISSION
REPORT ON U.S. HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT PLANS**
AIAA Panel to Discuss Implications of Report for American Space Programs

October 22, 2009 – Reston, Va. – The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) recognizes and appreciates the hard work of the Review of U.S. Human Space Flight Plans Committee as it completes its role and releases its final report today.

AIAA President Dave Thompson states: “AIAA welcomes the full report of the Review of U.S. Human Space Flight Plans Committee, and thanks chairman Norman Augustine and the rest of the committee for their dedication to its preparation. The report truly reflects the quality of the individuals who drafted it, and I believe that it will serve us well as a foundation for the necessary debate and analysis that will further shape the future direction of America’s human spaceflight and exploration programs.”

The panel, known as the “Augustine Commission” after its chairman, retired Lockheed Martin chairman and CEO and AIAA Honorary Fellow Norman Augustine, was created by NASA at the request of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to conduct an independent review of ongoing U.S. human space flight plans and programs, as well as alternatives. The purpose of the Commission was to assess whether the nation is pursuing a course that is safe, innovative, affordable, and sustainable.

An AIAA panel of experts will examine the future of America’s space programs in light of the Augustine Commission’s findings, in a special presentation – “**Does the Final Frontier have a Future? Debating America’s Next Steps in Human Spaceflight**” – that will be held on November 2, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington,

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