

Greetings Classmates,

8 April 2022

Today is another fantastic day for the Great Class of 1980. Our Classmate, **Mike Lopez-Alegria**, will be the Mission Commander of Axiom Mission 1 (Ax-1), the first private astronaut mission to the International Space Station. Congratulations Mike! All of your Shipmates are wishing you God's Speed and great success.

He and crew will launch today at 11:30 AM EST (unless there are delays) from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/axiomspace>

During the 10-day mission, which includes eight days aboard the space station, the four-person multi-national crew will complete more than 25 research experiments developed for microgravity in collaboration with health and science organizations across the globe.

Axiom Space astronauts **Michael López-Alegría**, Larry Connor, Mark Pathy, and Eytan Stibbe, are prime crew members of the Ax-1 mission. López-Alegría, who was born in Spain, raised in California, and is a former NASA astronaut, will serve as the mission commander. Connor, of Dayton, Ohio, will serve as pilot. Pathy, from Canada, and Stibbe, from Israel, will serve as mission specialists.

NASA continues to make rapid progress in its efforts to build a robust low-Earth orbit economy. The agency recently announced its selection of Axiom Space to begin negotiations for the second private astronaut mission. NASA also recently announced its selection of companies to develop designs of space stations and other commercial destinations in low-Earth orbit.

Prior to these new awards, NASA selected Axiom Space in January 2020 to design and develop commercial modules to attach to the station. Axiom recently completed the preliminary design review of two modules as well as the critical design review of the modules' primary structure with NASA participation. Flight hardware for the first Axiom module is currently undergoing fabrication.

For more information about NASA's low-Earth orbit commercialization activities, visit:

<https://www.nasa.gov/leo-economy/>

I'm not sure what coverage will be provided on television and streaming services - but if you can - we hope all will stop at 11:30 and think about Mike and his incredible launch. Wishing you all the Best Shipmate!

