

# 12

## Epilogue

In just four short decades, man has moved from brief sorties into space to living and working there. This space odyssey started as a competition between nations and into cooperation between nations. As we interact in this emerging international community, the technical distinctions between Russian spacesuits and U.S. spacesuits have started to blur, as Russians, Americans, and other nationalities used Russian and U.S. spacesuits interchangeably in the construction of the International Space Station and will continue to do so for maintenance. Thus far humanity has placed only 10 people in space at one time. This will grow. People have not been to the Moon in over three decades. Not only will that come to pass, but people will go onto places of which we can currently only dream.

Spacesuit systems are an integrated part of a space program, which is itself part of an overall space plan. Human exploration of Mars is still planned. This provides even greater challenge than those faced on the Moon. To address those Martian challenges, more spacesuit designs will emerge. These are elements of the future U.S. spacesuit story.

This future will undoubtedly build on the experiences of the past. Under the aegis of that legacy, U.S. spacesuits have kept many hundreds of crewmembers safe on their space journeys and made it possible for people to accrue over 2,500 man-hours thus far in U.S. spacesuits, for a worldwide total of over 3,700 hours, while exploring or working in the vast openness of space.