



Spaceflight participant Anousheh Ansari

American businesswoman Anousheh Ansari will fly with the Expedition 14 crew to the International Space Station as a spaceflight participant. She will spend nine days on the station under a commercial agreement with the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) and will return to Earth with the Expedition 13 crew.

Ansari was co-founder and CEO of Telecom Technologies, Inc. (TTI), a company she helped establish in 1993. The company was acquired by Sonus Networks, Inc., in 2000. Ansari was listed in Fortune magazine's "40 under 40" list in 2001 and honored by Working Woman magazine as the winner of the 2000 National Entrepreneurial Excellence Award. She is also co-founder of Prodea, which formed a partnership with Space

Adventures, Ltd. and the Russian Federal Space Agency to create a fleet of suborbital spaceflight vehicles (the Space Adventures Explorer) for global commercial use.

Ansari and her brother-in-law set up the X-Prize through their contribution to the X-Prize Foundation on May 5, 2004. The X-Prize was renamed the Ansari X-Prize in honor of their donation.

Ansari was born in Tehran, Iran, in 1967. She emigrated to the United States in 1984 and became a naturalized citizen. Ansari holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and computer science from George Mason University and a master's degree from George Washington University. She will be the first female spaceflight participant.