



Dayton entrepreneur Larry Connor to serve as mission pilot on history's first private ISS crew

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dayton, Ohio – Real estate and technology entrepreneur [Larry Connor](#) will pilot a historic proposed private mission to the International Space Station (ISS). Houston-based Axiom Space announced Connor as part of its four-person, multinational crew for Axiom Mission 1 (Ax-1).

Ax-1 will be comprised of the first fully private crew to visit the ISS in human history, making Connor the first private astronaut mission pilot in the history of space travel.

"I believe space is the last great frontier," Connor said. "I'm thrilled and honored to be a part of this historic mission."

Connor began flying in 2007 and has flown 16 different aircrafts, including an F-5 fighter jet. Connor is a rated helicopter pilot and a five-time winner of aerobatic competitions who has participated in multiple events at the U.S. National Aerobatic Championships.

The rest of the crew consists of Axiom VP and former NASA astronaut Michael López-Alegría (commander of Ax-1), Eytan Stibbe of Israel, and Canadian Mark Pathy on the no-earlier-than January 2022 mission. Connor and the other crew members will undergo Axiom training to live and work on the ISS, subject to final approval by NASA and the ISS International Partners.

Connor is the founder and managing partner of [The Connor Group](#), a real estate investment firm. He also has started multiple tech companies. In 2007, he founded The Connor Group Kids & Community Partners. The non-profit organization makes activist investments in programs that help pull children out of generational poverty.

Piloting the historic Ax-1 mission is an endeavor Connor plans to combine on orbit with his [non-profit efforts](#) and partnerships with renowned medical experts at Mayo Clinic and Cleveland Clinic.

"That's what I'm excited about," he said. "It's not about being the first pilot. It's about doing things that can only be done in space – experiments in microgravity. It's a unique way to help humankind."

While aboard the ISS, Connor also intends to provide instructional lessons to students at Dayton Early College Academy, a nationally recognized K-12 school that produces first-generation college graduates.

Axiom Space President & CEO Michael Suffredini said Ax-1 will be the first of several Axiom Space crews whose private missions to ISS will open the way for an expansive future of humans in space.

“We sought to put together a crew for this historic mission that had demonstrated a lifelong commitment to improving the lives of the people on Earth,” he said. “And I’m glad to say we’ve done that with this group.”

About The Connor Group

The Connor Group, founded in 1992, has grown from \$0 to \$3.3 billion in assets. Along the way it has been recognized as a top-50 workplace nationally by Glassdoor, as well as a multi-award winner nationally by Comparably (Best Company for Women, Best Culture and Best Compensation). The Connor Group owns and operates luxury apartments in Austin, Nashville, Tampa, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Chicago, Charlotte, Raleigh-Durham, Dallas, Denver, Indianapolis, Columbus, Cincinnati, Louisville and Dayton.

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