

# Astro/Space Frequently Seen Acronyms

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.shuttle/2004-08/0875.html>

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**Date:** 08/29/04

Date: 29 Aug 2004 04:28:10 GMT

Archive-name: space/acronyms

Acronym List for Space and Astronomy

As of 2002 Oct 20

This list is offered as a reference for translating commonly appearing acronyms in the space-related newsgroups. If I forgot or botched your favorite acronym, please let me know! Also, if there's an acronym not on this list that confuses you, drop me a line, and if I can figure it out, I'll add it to the list.

Note: as of late 2000, I have changed the web location of the list, to a place where it's easier for me to tweak and update it. I have made a number of revisions that had accumulated during the past couple of years; thanks especially to Bill Owen of NASA and Robin Hill of BAE SYSTEMS. No doubt several corrections have slipped through the cracks; please alert me if this is the case.

The canonical version of this list is the HTML form, available at <http://tla.surly.org>. From that, I generate the text form for USENET posting.

Note that this is intended to be a reference for frequently seen acronyms, and is most emphatically not encyclopedic. If I incorporated every acronym I ever saw, I'd soon run out of disk space. :-)

The list will be posted at regular intervals, every 30 days. All comments regarding it are welcome; I'm reachable at [tla@surly.org](mailto:tla@surly.org).

Note that this just tells what the acronyms stand for -- you're on your own for figuring out what they mean. Note also that the total number of acronyms in use far exceeds what I can list; special-purpose acronyms that are essentially always explained as they're introduced are omitted. Further, some acronyms stand for more than one thing; these acronyms appear on multiple lines.

Thanks to everybody who's sent suggestions since the first version of the list!

## sci.space.shuttle: Astro/Space Frequently Seen Acronyms

PS: Strictly speaking, most of these are "initialisms" or "abbreviations" rather than "acronyms"; pedantically, it's only an "acronym" if you make a word out of it, like "laser" or "radar." In practice, though, everybody calls 'em acronyms.

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A&A: Astronomy and Astrophysics  
AAO: Anglo–Australian Observatory  
AAS: American Astronomical Society  
AAS: American Astronautical Society  
AAVSO: American Association of Variable Star Observers  
ACE: Advanced Composition Explorer  
ACRV: Assured Crew Return Vehicle (or) Astronaut Crew R