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Central cover image: “The bright sun greets the International Space Station”. Photograph of the Russian section of the International Space Station taken on November 22nd 2009 by one of the crew members of the space shuttle Atlantis during the STS-129 mission to the orbital outpost. The white circle highlights the EXPOSE-R facility of the European Space Agency ESA that was attached to the Russian module Zvezda of the ISS from March 11, 2009 to January 21, 2011 (Credit NASA, image S129-E-007592; picture modified and adapted by Kerstin Kopp, DLR).

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SPECIAL ISSUE: EXPOSE-R

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