

Guide To Spacewalk Acronyms

This guide explains the key acronyms related to Tim Peake's spacewalk, EVA US 35, from the ISS on 15th January 2016.

Acronym	Meaning	Details
CO2	Carbon dioxide	A gas produced during respiration.
ESA	European Space Agency	An intergovernmental organisation, with 22 member states, responsible for coordinating European civilian space activities, established in 1975.
EVA	Extra-vehicular activity	A spacewalk.
HAP	Helmet absorption pad	A safety measure designed to collect water in the helmet, introduced in response to a suit fault experienced by Luca Parmitano during ISS EVA US 23.
IDA	International docking adapter	A ring-shaped module attached to the pressurised modules designed to allow spacecraft to dock with the ISS, using a standardised interface, for international use.
ISS	International space station	A spacecraft primarily consisting of a set of linked pressurised modules, contributed by the international community, and a main truss supporting its solar arrays.
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	The governmental organisation of the United States of America responsible for the civilian space program as well as aeronautics and aerospace research, established in 1958.
NPV	Non-propulsive vent	An emergency vent designed to expel gas from the ISS without producing thrust, which could result due to the conservation of momentum.
PGT	Pistol grip tool	An electric tool for servicing screw fittings, designed for use in space and similar to a slow-speed electric drill.
RET	Retractable tether	A safety cable used to prevent astronauts from accidentally floating away into space, similar to tethers using in climbing on Earth.
S6	Starboard 6	The element of the main truss farthest from its centre of mass on the starboard side of the ISS
SSU	Sequential shunt unit	A power converter between the solar arrays and the main space station's systems.