

SPACE OPERATIONS SYMPOSIUM (B6)  
Human Spaceflight Operations (1)

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## FIRST STEPS OF THE EUROPEAN PLANNING AND INCREMENT COORDINATION TEAM.

**Abstract**

Any project running for some time experiences at some point cost reduction impacting either the way the project is driven or forcing a change in the way the different tasks are handled. The Columbus project, European module attached to the International Space Station, is no exception to that principle. After more than 6 years after its launch in space, this project went already through several budget cuts, the last one enforcing a reduction of about 30 percent of the overall project cost. When it comes to reducing the cost, it is required to assess at each level of a project what can be changed in order to save money.

In the frame of the above mentioned last budget reduction, the Columbus Control Center in Oberpfaffenhofen/Germany was strongly impacted and the way operations preparation and execution were handled had to be adapted, leading to the interesting challenge of reducing the cost of a project while minimizing the impact it might have on the reactivity, the quality and the efficiency. Following this assessment, it was decided to merge the Columbus Operation Coordinator (COL-OC) team and the European Planning Team (EPT) into one single team resulting in a new group called the European Planning and Increment Coordination team. The new team is now in place since beginning of January and the first benefits but also impacts can be seen during the preparation and the execution phase.

The paper intends to present the outcome of this merger, what was the initial situation before the merger, what is happening during the transition phase currently taking place and finally the expectation we have for the future for this new team in term of setup and responsibilities.