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SPACE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS SYMPOSIUM (D2)  
Future Space Transportation Systems Verification and In-Flight Experimentation (6)

Author: Mr. Stefano Bologna  
Thales Alenia Space Italia, Italy, stefano.bologna@thalesaleniaspace.com

IXV RECOVERY OPERATIONS

**Abstract**

One of the peculiarities of the IXV mission was the recovery of the spacecraft in the Pacific Ocean following its splash-down. This required initially the procurement of a suitable vessel able to meet the demanding type of operations, then to plan and to exercise with extreme attention all the tasks to be performed considering the constraints associated to the telemetry antenna installed on the ship and to the operations associated to a spacecraft with residual propellant on board.