IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Enabling the Future - Developing the Space Workforce (5)

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TRAINING TOOLS AND MATERIAL TO USE THE ECSS SYSTEM

Abstract

Since its foundation The European Cooperation for Space Standardization (ECSS) has evolved during the years with the vocation of satisfying the needs of the users. During this period, a recognized level of maturity was reached, and the large part of the initial effort used for the development of the documents is now focused in facilitating their application by the users in space projects. With this objective, several initiatives have been developed or are under development. One of them is the implementation of a training programme on ECSS.

ECSS documents are intended to be applied in every type of European Space programmes, from the top customer down to the low level suppliers. This variety of geographical, technical and organizational cultures may lead to different interpretation of the documents, resulting in an erosion of the invested standardization effort. To ensure a common understanding of both the technical and the programmatic content of the ECSS documents, training at all levels it is considered a key stone for the success of ECSS.

To cope with the different needs of the various users, ECSS training is organized in three levels. Level 1 explains the ECSS Standardization system as a whole, and is the entry point for any other training. Level 2 consists of several modules, one per ECSS discipline, and is addressed to users that need to have a system view of the standards, e.g. project managers, system engineers, PA and QA managers, and experts in interfacing disciplines. Level 3 focuses on every topic in detailed, and it is addressed to the very experts dealing with standards at the level of particular requirements.

This systematic approach to ECSS training was developed and first applied in 2011. Some adjustment have been done since, resulting in a proved concept well recognized by the users. This paper covers the details of this ECSS training concept, objective, coverage, duration and targeted audience, as well as the lessons learned from its implementation, possibilities of contribution and participation, and present and future evolution.