

22nd SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)
New Developments in National Space Policies and Programmes (1)

Author: Ms. Sarah Ramsey
Bryce Space and Technology, United States, sarah.ramsey@taurigroup.com

Ms. Anne Simmons
(country is not specified), (email is not specified)

Ms. Lindsey Bagley
(country is not specified), (email is not specified)

Mr. Ryan May
(country is not specified), (email is not specified)

Ms. Casey Cahoon
(country is not specified), (email is not specified)

Ms. Susie Johnson
(country is not specified), (email is not specified)

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING AT NASA

Abstract

The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993(GPRA) requires 24 U.S. federal agencies, including NASA, to communicate to the public and Congress the plans and progress of each agency's activities via strategic plans, performance budgets, and performance and accountability reports. In the 16 years since GPRA became law, external reporting requirements levied on NASA have increased dramatically, yet cost and schedule overruns at NASA continue. NASA now reports quarterly, semi-annually, or annually on cost and schedule performance to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Congress, and the General Accountability Office (GAO).

Under the Obama administration, there is a re-emphasized push for federal agencies to detail exactly how they are spending taxpayer money and if their government programs deliver good value to the country. Over the next few years every government agency will be held to a higher standard of reporting to prove to that the money it receives is well spent.

NASA's programs vary greatly in size, complexity, and duration, and the Agency's performance measurement metrics and methods reflect that variety. This paper will compare measurement processes for programs and projects across the Agency. Detailed examples of project and program performance reporting will be included.

NASA now faces fresh challenges in access to space coupled with increased federal competition for funds. The Agency will need to find new ways to measure and communicate performance in a way that will bolster public confidence in the NASA's ability to use taxpayer dollars effectively to achieve its goals. This paper examines the history and progress of performance reporting at NASA. It will also answer the questions: What improvements have been made? What hurdles remain to be overcome?