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IAF SPACE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP REPORT ON ISS OPERATIONS COST REDUCTION

Abstract

With the International Space Station transition from a construction phase to an increasingly operations oriented phase, one of the biggest challenges currently facing the ISS operations community is to make this transition and reduce the ISS operations cost to ensure cost effective long term station operations. The International Astronautical Federation's Space Operations Committee formed an international working group to address ISS operations cost reduction as a matter of urgency. Since very few changes in operations processes, concepts and techniques can be implemented unilaterally, it is necessary to first discuss and agree changes across the ISS partnership. With its independence, the IAF Space Operations Committee was well placed to carry out such an initial integrated analysis as its membership represents all the ISS partners at either an agency or industrial level, and in several cases both. The paper describes the processes and approach followed to perform the analysis, and the resulting recommendations offered to the ISS programme for further evaluation and possible implementation. In conclusion, the benefit of using the IAF as an independent forum to address such issues is evaluated.