

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)

Enabling The Future – Developing the Project Management and the Technical Space Workforce (3)

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JAXA PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING ACTIVITY

Abstract

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has continued to strengthen the capability for its project management year by year. JAXA is the newly created organization in 2003 by consolidating three previously separated organizations. Under the initiative of “One JAXA”, the JAXA has decided to collaboratively pursue the high level of mission success under “the engineering development activity reform plan” issued on March 2005 after the consecutive failures of H-2A No.6, Midori-2 and Nozomi. In this reform plan, one of the major priority was put onto the human resources development relating to the program/project management, discipline engineering and safety and mission assurance. Especially, program and project management were considered as the most important area which should be largely improved by introducing the idea of the systems engineering.

For this purpose, the Systems Engineering Office (SEO) was established as the secretariat function for Chief Engineer Office (CEO) which is the advisory function toward the JAXA executive management. Under the CEO, the SEO started to be in charge of the program/project management processes, mission design, and human resources development.

The SEO is responsible for the human resources development policy of JAXA researchers, engineers or project managers, and initiated the Systems Engineering Training Courses and the Project Management Training Courses for the JAXA employees. JAXA has the joint agreement with the Keio University which is the core research organization in Japan in the area of the systems engineering, and is provided with the broader knowledge including the project management practices of non-space enterprises through this corroboration. The SEO has continued to improve the courses as annual basis to seek the best quality.

The overview of the JAXA project management training activities and recent topics are introduced.