

48th SYMPOSIUM ON SAFETY, QUALITY AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN SPACE
ACTIVITIES (D5)
Interactive Presentations (IP)

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SUPPORT OF THE SPACE PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Abstract

The aim of this abstract is to introduce the current state of the space project management in the Czech Republic and the support of this area by the Czech Space Office (CSO). CSO is a private non-profit organization that, since its inception in 2003, has been seeking to develop space activities in the Czech Republic. CSO started to work on the project Support of the space project management (SSPM) in April 2014. The goal of this project is to support Czech organizations by information, publications and consultations focused on the space project management.

The first step of the SSPM project was to analyse the current state of the space project management in the Czech Republic. For this purpose the author conducted an extensive questionnaire survey in 2014. The results showed that 58% of respondents believe that the project management in space projects is more challenging than the project management in other sectors. Another finding is that the project management is much more difficult than the scientific and/or technical part of space projects. Despite the fact that 63% of respondents consider management education as important, most of project managers have no such education. None of them graduated from university focused on management and only a few of them completed some managerial courses. Czech project managers therefore often lack managerial skills and other important soft skills. Very serious finding is that 58% of respondents do not use any standards or methods for project management. Among the most problematic areas of the space project management include administration, writing project proposals and compliance with schedule. The questionnaire survey provided plenty of other interesting information.

These findings are necessary for better targeting of CSO's support and they are also source of information for other outputs of the SSPM project. These outputs include consultations, articles in a magazine and on a website, publication, series of seminars or congress focused on the space project management. Results show that the Czech organizations often underestimate the importance of the space project management, managerial education or standards and methods. CSO is a member organization of the International Project/Programme Management Committee (IPMC) of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). This membership allows CSO nominate Czech project managers at the International Project Management Courses (IPM) organized by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). In the Czech Republic there is no other organization or project focused on support of the space project management.