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INTEGRATION OF AN EXTERNALLY PROVIDED NEW PLANNING SOFTWARE INTO THE RUNNING COLUMBUS OPERATIONS.

Abstract

Used in the past for the space shuttle program and still in use for the International Space Station (ISS) program, the Consolidated Planning System (CPS) software is soon to be fully replaced by a new software called SCORE. SCORE is one of the new tools, developed by NASA and introduced with the deployment of the Optimis suite. It will be used as the primary timeline development tool and will be soon distributed to all international partners to achieve planning tasks for the ISS.

The European Planning and Increment Coordination (EPIC) team working at the Columbus Control Center (COL-CC) in Munich, as one of the members of the International Execute Planning Team (IEPT) will be in the coming weeks, one of the international partners using SCORE. The software will be used to develop timelines in support of the ESA activities for the ISS. Although SCORE was entirely developed by NASA, COL-CC being just a user, an important preparation work has taken place in Munich to prepare the transition expected in the first quarter of 2015. The expectations the ISS planning community has with the transition from CPS to SCORE are mainly oriented to efficiency and reactivity to the dynamic of the ISS operations impacting the planning of upcoming days. Some new features, such as the collaboration mode allowing any IEPT planner to interact on a timeline simultaneously, were introduced to meet these expectations.

The paper intends to present how the transition from CPS to SCORE took place at COL-CC in early 2015 and the first lessons learned experienced by the EPIC team after this transition. What the major tools changes impacting the planning process were; how the software, delivered by NASA, was integrated in the running Columbus operational environment; how SCORE was introduced in the EPIC team for training and operational usage are some of the questions this paper will address.