

SPACE OPERATIONS SYMPOSIUM (B6)
Human Spaceflight Operations (1)

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BRINGING TWO DISPARATE INDUSTRIES TOGETHER FOR SPACE

Abstract

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) wished to provide in situ bioanalytical capability for the International Space Station. The biomedical industry and the space industry would have to work together to achieve this project. Guided by an open innovation model developed in-house, the path to the procurement combined consultations and studies. The technologies for CSA to examine were identified through an environmental scan followed by a workshop. An early studies request for proposals was designed so that proposals would be led by a space industry but would also require a biomedical industry partner and include a consultation with scientists. The result was the identification of several possible bioanalytical tools. An analysis grid identified potential technology that would best support the health sciences objectives and also meet needs of scientists. In preparation for the release of the bioanalysis announcement of opportunity, a webinar was held to bring together biomedical and space industry. CSA partnered with the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program to identify invitees. Both space and biomedical companies described their capabilities and had the opportunity to meet up to discuss potential partnership to respond to the solicitation of the build of a bioanalytical instrument. Overall, a focused strategy to bring together unrelated industries to meet space needs that promotes innovation will be described.