

Introduction

This report presents the findings of the User Workshop on Utilization Management Concept Development for the International Space Station (ISS). The report was prepared by the Office of Biological and Physical Research. Ms. Mary Kicza, Associate Administrator for the Office of Biological and Physical Research of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sponsored the workshop.

The purpose of the User Workshop was to provide an open forum for NASA officials to solicit ISS user thoughts regarding ISS utilization management implementation. The User Workshop was organized and supervised by the Utilization Management Concept Development Team, or “Blue Team.” The “Blue Team” was established by Ms. Kicza in March 2002 to examine detailed options for the management of ISS research. Specifically, its charter is to:

- Characterize the current Agency ISS utilization processes, organizational interfaces and management framework;
- Identify inherently governmental functions within the ISS utilization processes;
- Assess the advantages and disadvantages of various management approaches to ISS utilization;
- Recommend NASA process and/or organization changes/reforms;
- Identify implications for workforce transition and/or skill mix rebalancing.

The User Workshop brought together members of the research community from a wide range of disciplines and related industries. Attendees included representatives of the research community, NASA centers and industry, and included those with scientific, technical, and commercial research interests. Among the ninety-nine participants were those who had performed prior research on Station, Shuttle, and ELV missions, and whose research interests lay in the past, present, and future.

Both the User Workshop and this report recognize the importance of the user perspective in managing ISS research and in implementing ISS utilization management. To that end this report includes all information provided to the “Blue Team” by the Workshop User participants.

This report is based on a recorder’s notes from the plenary session. The afternoon session consisted of reports from attendees who were divided into four groups and asked to consider the following two questions:

- 1) Using the 21 ISS Utilization functions provided earlier:
 - a) identify the functions which work well;
 - b) identify the functions which need improvement; and
 - c) recommend how to achieve the improvements.
- 2) Identify which functions could be performed under an alternative management structure.