



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Washington, D.C.
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Reply to Attn of

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MAR 07 1988

TO: Distribution

FROM: S/Special Assistant

SUBJECT: SSAC Member Interests, February 12, 1988

Near the end of the Space Station Advisory Committee (SSAC) meeting on February 12, 1988, members in attendance were asked to give their views about topics they thought were important and worthy of treatment at future meetings of SSAC. What follows represents the first effort of a new group; we can expect other emphases in the future. Since there was substantial overlap from one member to another, I have attempted to group the topics by subject, rather than person.

Engineering

Are there any questionable features of the design? What is the state of readiness of the 20 KHz technology? What is the plan for test and verification, both before and after launch? Was dropping the dual keel a good decision?

Information/communication

Is it safe to depend entirely on a single string, namely TDRSS? What about direct communication with the ground; for data, for emergencies? What provisions have been made to ensure uninterrupted communication with the ground?

Utilization

How is utilization to be managed? What is NASA committed to supply to support various types of activity, like microgravity research, and life sciences? Will there be a centrifuge, and if so, of what type?

Platforms

Without adequate provision for servicing polar platforms, the whole concept may need changing. What, specifically, is planned for servicing of polar platforms and their instruments?

Commercial Infrastructure

How is the use of commercial on-orbit facilities to be meshed with use of Station? What are the opportunities for involvement of the private sector?

Stability

How can stability of the program be improved? Given that the Station is permanently linked to other programs, such as STS, TDRSS, and the payload projects of other NASA program offices, how can the Station program handle instabilities in funding or schedule of these other programs, any of which could have a potentially disastrous effect on the Station?

What are the sources of political support for the Program; what is the opposition; and what can be done to build a potent constituency for Station?

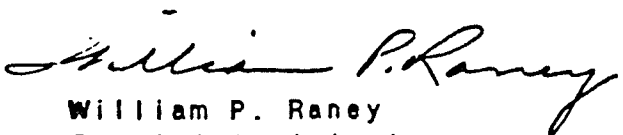
Management

Is the Apollo management style a good one for this program at this time?

How is the Program managing the margins, such as weight, power, schedule, cost, and so forth? What is being done to define and control the interfaces among the various parts of the Program? How do we plan to manage risk in the Program?

What is being done now about developing a pricing procedure for use of the Station? We should be able to avoid the mess of Shuttle pricing.

Discussion among the members during the meeting was lively, showing great interest and very strong motivation to find ways to help. They are currently rethinking this list of things that could occupy the group during the next few meetings. Your reaction to the list and suggestions of your own would be helpful in ensuring that the work of the SSAC provides early dividends.


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