Ground Systems Standardization and Commonality: Benefits, Risks and Obstacles

Session 4C

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Session Goals

- Primary goal was to identify:
  - What works well
  - What’s broken
  - What’s in the way

- Share real world experience with standardization, commonality and reuse

- Bring together diverse viewpoints (acquisition, oversight, operational) across mission areas and domains
Presenters/Panelists

- Trudy Bergen, The Aerospace Corporation
- Geri Chaudhri, The Aerospace Corporation
- Dave Finkleman, AGI, Inc.
- Sid Hollander, The Aerospace Corporation
- Mario Merri, European Space Agency

- And approximately 40 participants
Key Points

- Standards need to solve an actual problem, not just be done for their own sake.
- There is significant disagreement about who should direct standards – top down vs. bottoms up.
- Standards should not require extensive tailoring and need to be directly applicable to business agreements.
- Benefits of standardization go beyond cost control (e.g. reliability, knowledge management, facilitating competition).
- Primary risk is using inappropriate standards (immature, obsolete, unnecessary).
- Obstacles include reluctance to pay up front costs which will benefit others, time to get consensus, difficulty in choosing between competing standards.
Conclusions

- There is consensus that standardization is worth pursuing
- Standardize at the interface / architecture level, not application level
- Buy-in from both sides of the interface (e.g. space segment as well as ground) is important
- Proven small successes will help to overcome resistance and develop business case