— Working Group Session Summary —

Ground Systems Standardization and Commonality: Benefits, Risks and Obstacles

Session 4C

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GSAW2007
Ground System Architectures Workshop

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

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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

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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