



Mike Kearny (NASA, GSFC) announcing the SpaceOps Symposium 2010 at Huntsville, Alabama

SpaceOps Symposium 2008 hosted by the European Space Agency –ESOC and EUMETSAT at Heidelberg

May 12-16: The biennial SpaceOps Symposium concluded successfully on May 16, 2008 at the Heidelberg Convention Center.

The organizing Committee, co-chaired by Paolo Maldari, European Space Agency (ESA) and Sean Burns, European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) handed over the SpaceOps banner to the host of the next Symposium, Mr. Mike Kearny of NASA, MSFC Huntsville, Alabama.

During the five days of the symposium a total of 108 different sessions (accommodating 2 up to 7 presentations each) were held followed by lively discussions and exchange of views. Over 700 international participants appreciated the quality of the Symposium, the picturesque venue and the exceptional weather.

For the official picture gallery of the various SpaceOps 2008 Symposium events please refer to:

<http://esamultimedia.esa.int/multimedia/esoc/SpaceOps2008/index.html>



<http://www.spaceops2008.org>

2008 SpaceOps Awards

These awards were presented at the 2008 SpaceOps Conference. Congratulations to the recipients!

International SpaceOps Award for Outstanding Achievement

The SpaceOps Award Group honored the outstanding achievements of the Ulysses mission operations team.

Recipient: Ulysses Mission Operations Team
(Award being accepted by **Mr. Gus (John) Macintosh**).

Team Leader: Mr. Nigel Angold (Ulysses Mission Operations Manager) representing Team Members from ESA/ESOC and NASA (HQ and JPL)



Citation: For its outstanding contributions to the success, scientific productivity, and longevity of the joint ESA-NASA Ulysses Mission to the poles of the sun.

International Space Ops Distinguished Service Medals

In 2008 three individual recipients were elected by the SpaceOps Award Group to receive the International Space Ops Distinguished Service Medal.

Recipient: Robert K. Wilson, Spitzer Space Telescope project manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California

Recipient: John C. Rodgers, manager at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. (retired)

Citation: *In recognition for his service as one of the founding members of the SpaceOps Organization, his dedication to SpaceOps activities since its formation in 1992, and his unwavering support by representing NASA in the newly-formed Organization. (Not Pictured)*

Recipient: Herwig Laue, section manager at ESA-ESOC



Citation: *In recognition for outstanding dedication, leadership, operational excellence, innovation, and sustained technical performance, significantly contributing to the success*

of NASA Astronomy Physics, Planetary and Earth Observing missions and the Spitzer Space Telescope.



Citation: *In recognition for over five years of dedicated service as acting SpaceOps Co-Chair, including his role in organizing the 1996 SpaceOps Symposium – in excellent cooperation with DLR, the German Aerospace Center – which featured the first "on-line" paper collection system, the first CD publication of the proceedings, and numerous other innovations.*

DGLR Wernher von Braun Award

The prestigious Wernher-von-Braun Award went to the European Columbus design team, lead by Astrium (prime contractor for the design and implementation of the Columbus laboratory), Mr. Guenther Brandt - Director Columbus & ISS Elements EADS Astrium GmbH, Bremen.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Luft- und Raumfahrt - Lilienthal - Oberth e.V. (DGLR) is the oldest association in Germany for aerospace engineers and interested laymen. The Wernher -von-Braun award is granted to teams having earned extraordinary merits for furthering space exploitation.

The award was presented by Thomas Reiter, former ESA astronaut and now responsible for DLR's space policy, during the closing session of the SpaceOps2008 Symposium at Heidelberg.



Award winning team: (from left) Dino Brondolo (Thales Alenia Space), Bernardo Patti (ESA/ESATEC) Hans-Joerg Pospieszczyk (Astrium) Guenther Brandt (Astrium) Ruediger Kledzik (Astrium), Thomas Reiter (DLR Board of Chairmen, ESA Astronaut)

As for every SpaceOps Symposium the various session chairmen and the hosting committee selected the three best papers presented during the weeklong event.

A total of 5 papers were selected with 3 papers being judged equal.

Best Paper

[Operational Management of Collision Risks for LEO Satellites at CNES](#)

Authors: F. Laporte, CNES, Toulouse and E. Sasot, Atos Origin Integration, Toulouse, France

Paper number: 2008-3409

Second Place

[METEOSAT Second Generation: Automated Procedures Execution Algorithms](#)

Author: L. Matheson

Paper number: 2008-3216

Third Place

[Use of Virtualisation Techniques for Ground Data Systems](#)

Authors: J. Prieto, IsFreelance, Madrid, Spain; J. Feiteirinha, CISUC Department of Informatics Engineering, University of Coimbra, Portugal; E. Gómez, M. Pecchioli, ESOC, Darmstadt, Germany

Paper number: 2008-3590

[Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter Aero braking Sequencing Operations and Lessons Learned](#)

Author: R. Gladden

Paper number: 2008-3353

[Enabling Autonomous Science for a Mars Rover](#)

Authors: T. Estlin, R. Castano, D. Gaines, D. Gaines, B. Bornstein and R. Anderson,

Paper number: 2008-3241

The five papers are published within the "Communicator" in the next issues.



Image above: NASA astronauts Greg Chamitoff (left), Garrett Reisman, both Expedition 17 flight engineers; Russian Federal Space Agency cosmonauts Sergei Volkov, commander; and Oleg Kononenko, flight engineer. Image credit: NASA

Munich in Space and Down-to-Earth

On Saturday, 19 July 2008 Munich celebrated its 850th anniversary of the city foundation in the year 1158.

Approximately one million people watched the main event on the Odeonsplatz in the center of the city. At the very beginning of the impressive show recalling the city's historical events, the crew from the International Space Station transmitted their congratulations, mentioning the association of Munich with the ISS through its partner ISS control center (Columbus Control Center, Col-CC) at Oberpfaffenhofen close to Munich.

The Expedition-17 flight engineer Greg Chamitoff was displayed on a ultra-big screen while delivering the ISS crew's congratulations:

"Good evening Munich!

I'm Greg Chamitoff, Expedition 17 Science Officer and Flight Engineer aboard the International Space Station.

My crewmates and I want to congratulate the City of Munich and its Lord Mayor Christian Ude on the 850th birthday of the Bavarian capital. To the citizens and visitors celebrating with you in Munich.....Happy Birthday to all of you!

"Building Bridges" is the theme for your celebration, and here on the International Space Station, we are building bridges as well. Bridges between countries and bridges to leave Earth orbit, return to the Moon, and then, go to Mars.

Munich is the home for the Columbus Control Centre where the European Space Agency watches over our activities in your Columbus space laboratory. But I'm sure that Reinhold Ewald (ESA Mission Operations Director at Oberpfaffenhofen) can tell you more about that since it is his workplace, just as the ISS is mine for the next few months.

As we look down on Europe, the city of Munich shines brighter than ever tonight. To all of you down there in beautiful Munich.....we wish you Happy Birthday and have fun!"

The salute from the ISS was arranged by EADS, the prime contractor for the Columbus laboratory in close co-operation with ESA and DLR.