

2013: Last Year's Poll Results Analysis

The summary below presents the results of the four polls posted in the "The Journal of Space Operations & Communicator" during 2013. The author found it interesting to combine the results into this summary expressing the admittedly "non-representative" results of the SpaceOps community and representing the voice of informed readers wishing to state their opinions. The following polls were posted duly in the four quarterly issues of "The Journal" in 2013.

Poll-19 (Jan. 2013): ISS Research

In SpaceNews, Nov. 19, 2012, more than 30 distinguished space advocates suggested improvements for "making ISS a research success": improved utilization politics and processes, additional government funding, and intellectual property retention by U.S. companies:

Yes, this will improve ISS utilization ?

No, but the ISS should also be opened up for other commercial enterprises like space tourism, entertainment etc?

33.33% voted for Yes, 66.67% voted for an expansion of the ISS research for commercial enterprises.

Comments: Chris suggested there should be the aerospace museum and so that people can have a keen idea to know and understand what and how actually the aerospace evolved day by day.

Another comment was: My answer is "yes" with the following caveat: long-term planning for the ISS should include a transition plan that would pass the station to the private sector by the end of the government's stated involvement/ ownership. De-orbiting this critical, renewable infrastructure component should NEVER be an option.

Poll-20 (April 2013): Space Transportation System (STS)

"NASA should not be to move the Agency out of the space exploration business" (Walter Cunningham - Apollo 7 Astronaut).

"Washington should listen to the Augustine committee about the critical requirement to match programs with available funds" (O. Glenn Smith - former manager of shuttle systems, JSC). As a consequence:

STS shall be canceled, instead a gateway base at L2 shall be supported with launchers we now have, or NASA to continue the most powerful launch vehicle ever to fly to stay in the exploration business?

The votes turned out: 50% suggested to cancel the STS, 33.3% voted for NASA to continue with the development of the STS .

Poll-21 (July 2013): Human Asteroid Mission

If NASA would finally decide to carry out the human asteroid mission: pulling an asteroid into a Moon orbit for closer inspection by landing astronauts on it, would you approve such a mission?

The votes were: Yes 77,78%, No 22.22%

Comments: Get started now! Private space ventures will surpass NASA in flexibility, they are much more nimble. NASA should focus on what is not being sought after with an asteroid mission. I would prefer they look into such a mission with the view of turning it into a space station and thus avoid the cost of sending up prefabbed structures.

Another (not so enthusiastic) opinion was: It's like pulling over on the side of the road to examine a wet couch.

Poll-22 (Oct 2013): Asteroid Retrieval Mission (ARM) -follow up to Poll 20

With Lori Garver (NASA Deputy Administrator), a zealous advocat for the Asteroid Retrieval Mission (ARM), Quote: "I can tell you that within NASA this thing [ARM] has energized the team like nothing I've seen since I've been here", having left NASA in Sept 2013, will the ARM survive? (Yes or No?)

100% of the votes predicted "No"

In conclusion the voters want the ISS continue to keep flying, however to be turned over for to industry for commercial use at a later point. With respect to human exploration beyond LEO the voters are the opinion that a custom tailored heavy launcher should be developed only once the target is defined, agreed upon and the long term budget secured.

Again, many thanks to all the readers of "The Journal of Space Operations & Communicator" and their comments. It was fun to compile this little summary and to look back over the past year. We hope you all will also participate in the future as actively as you have done so far.

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