

Overview of the White Paper on Satellite Missions Bureau (SMB)

Mar 16, 2008

White Paper – The Basics

- Target Audience: GGOS SC and Science Panel
- Purpose of the White Paper:

Space missions have a prominent role to play in the success of GGOS (the system). Do we need an entity within GGOS (the organization) that will be responsible for ensuring that space missions satisfy the GGOS (the system) functional and operational requirements? What are the roles of such an entity (the SMB)?
- Which way is this effort heading?
 - An “inside-outwards” approach: SMB as the voice of the geodetic user community: from user requirements, to infrastructure; and Requirement Verification
 - SMB develops and voices the needs of the geodetic community to the agencies responsible for implementing space missions.
 - This is aiming towards (eventually) unifying or reconciling approaches being taken by each spacefaring agency.

Tasks for the Breakout Session

- What is the “Business Model” for the SMB?
 - Structure (Bureau or WG?)
 - Potential Members or Membership Skills
 - How is the work defined and accomplished
- What does it mean to “Verify User Requirements”?
- What is the definition of the “linkages” that must be established between GGOS and the funding and coordination agencies
- Several open questions are already listed, and have been distributed, on the same page as the agenda for the retreat at GGOS/UNR website.

Some New Points from Monday

- Some last minute thoughts from Monday's session:
 - Should SMB acknowledge resource constraints?
 - Think about measuring progress - How can SMB/GGOS help clarify the benefits for space agencies from being responsive to GGOS blueprints.
 - Does the SMB discussion so far acknowledge the GGOS role in “maintaining the society”?
- Participants in discussions of this white paper should help point out any signs of “failure to think big” and if we're getting bogged down in details.