

Missions WG Progress Report

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Progress Since Vienna (Apr '06)

- WG Membership
 - Not expanded so far, while trying to get a feel for the scope, focus & complexity of some of the efforts
- Two “tasks” started
 - Science & Flight Operations: What does it take to consolidate this information for ongoing flight missions?
 - Geodesy Space Missions web

Space Missions

- Scope: Start with following two questions:
 - Is there a common information source for events and operational aspects of space missions?
 - What does it take to “connect” science operations to exploit inter-mission synergy?
- Why these questions?
 - Pre-requisite for exploiting space missions in the sense of “greater-than-sum” benefits

Information Sources

- There are several (very sophisticated) efforts to integrate the science, data & products
- No public information sources for operations and plans for space missions
 - Mailing lists exist, but are “one-way” flow of information. Access to participation at agency level progress reviews is limited.
 - Not obvious how to connect to science operations across multiple missions
 - More common is input from science to “programs” at the agency levels

Connecting GRACE, GOCE & ICESat

- At the GOCE 3rd User Workshop (Nov, 2006)
 - Reached understanding of the value of operational interfaces between GRACE & GOCE
 - Informal, Operations-level contacts established between the two missions
- Lessons learnt
 - Highly “context-dependent” (GRACE/GOCE)
 - Facilitated by peer-to-peer interactions (GRACE/ICESat).
How can we make it more “generic”?

Space Geodesy Missions

- The need:
 - Is there a “geodesy-specific” source of information on the history, principal accomplishments, data types/sources, mission events?
 - Surprisingly, the answer is no (did we look in the wrong places?)
 - Extensive data base for Earth-Sciences overall (e.g. GCMD, ESIP, DLESE, various DAACs, and University websites)
- Prototype website by July 2007