

IAA Study Group Status Report

Responsible Commission: 4

Study Number and Title: 4.18 Definition and Requirements of Small Satellites Seeking Low-Cost and Fast-Delivery

Short Study Description (repeat from Study Group Proposal):

In recent years, explosive growth of small satellites launch raises concern over space debris and safety. Small satellites range from a 1kg Cubesat to a satellite weighing well over 100kg, but have a common characteristic of low-cost and fast-delivery. In the past, small satellites, especially the smaller ones, have been used for educational or experimental purposes. Nowadays, however, even commercial Cubesats are envisioned. Commercial usage of small satellites raises concern over reliability as they cannot assure the same level of reliability as traditional large/medium satellites. In 2014, an activity started at ISO/SC14 to make an ISO standard that defines what is a small satellite and sets requirements for small satellites to answer those concerns and lay down the foundation of commercial activities utilizing small satellites. Although the ISO activity is intended for commercial satellites, satellites of educational or academic purpose may be affected by this standard. Inputs from the communities related to small satellites, especially university satellites and emerging countries to the ISO activity are highly sought-after. The study group will examine the definitions of small satellites that vary depending on countries or professions and try to reach consensus. The study group also differentiates the requirements every satellite should follow regardless its size from the requirements small satellites should have separately from the traditional satellites to keep their nature of low-cost and fast-delivery.

Practical benefit of this study group is to promote further growth of small satellite activity by clarifying the definition and requirements of small satellites that have been ambiguous and the source of confusion.

Progress in past six months:

Listed possible study group members. (35 people as of August 23, 2014)

Contacted the possible study group members.

Secured a room for the kick-off meeting at IAC 2014 Toronto on September 30.

The initial agenda was distributed to the members via e-mail.

Website Study Information up to date? (Study Group Membership, Study Plan and Schedule):

Issues requiring resolution? (recommend approach):

N/A

Product Deliveries on Schedule? (If modified explain rationale):

Yes

Study Team Member Changes? (List any Study Team Members that you wish to discontinue, and provide names plus contact coordinates of any Members you wish to add on the second page of this Study Update form.) Note: Complete contact information including email, tel. and fax must be provided for all additions. Only Members with complete contact information will be listed and receive formal appointment letters from the IAA Secretariat.)

Name of person providing Study Group Status (Study Group Chair or Co-Chair):

Mengu Cho (Filippo Graziani)

Status Report Date:

September 8, 2014

Study Team Membership Changes

Effectivity Date:

Discontinue:

Name

Current email address

Name

Current email address

Name

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