

**IAA Study Group Status Report**  
**Responsible Commission: Commission VI**  
**Study Number and Title: Space Expectation 6.8**

**Short Study Description:**

Status Report Date: 23 Jan 2008

**Overall Goal:** Enable a merging of the technological/scientific goals of space activities with society's expectations. This will lead to programs that are supported by the public, generate more interests and have fewer disconnects with society. **Intermediate Goals:** Determine societal expectations of space! **Rationale:** Space activities have historically been based upon technological successes with science and exploration leading space activities toward major projects throughout the solar system. Periodic disconnects have occurred as the public suddenly sees major successes and cheers or sees failures and asks tough questions like why? And how much? Following on from the IAA's recent study on the Impact of Space Activities upon Society, a study sponsored by the Academy would essentially turn the previous study around in order to determine the depth of understanding and backing that is out in the public, describe society's expectations from space programmes, and ascertain how society could become more involved in space exploration. The next step would be to merge these three thrusts so that projects could be positioned to fulfill public expectations, maintain their interest and excitement; and thus, be supported (both financially and intellectually) by the public.

**Methodology: Public Survey** – The approach for this study is to develop a survey that would be aimed at the public to determine their understanding and expectation of space activities. This survey would then be distributed through various national networks and organizations (including space agencies) to diverse groups including: high schools and universities; art, cultural and heritage bodies; as well as the public at large. To avoid a plethora of responses, replies would be sought as much as possible from groups of people, eg students would be asked to provide a reply from their class as a whole rather than individually. For the public response, students would be requested to ask their parents to respond to the survey. This would give the study team several sets of inputs from different age groups from around the world. The intention is to collect the inputs via a Web-based form to minimize the paperwork. However, a book could result if there are sufficient interesting Responses.

**Progress in past 24 months:** Initiated the study

**Meeting in Japan.** (see minutes) Study approved and initiated.

During the **meeting in Paris** in March, there was much discussion on schedule and how to proceed. The key was that the questionnaire had to be developed first. This is the key to the whole study. As such, a meeting was scheduled for **two weeks after Paris** at ESTEC where a small team hammered out a draft set of questions for the questionnaire. This was successfully done and then transmitted to the other members of the team for comments. Most have responded to the questionnaire and are providing comments as well as attending the follow-on **meeting in Valencia**. During the meeting in Valencia there was much discussion and three meetings on different aspects of the study... The questionnaire

is relatively stable; however, the approach to distribute the questionnaire is up for grabs. We are trying to understand how to do that. Website Study Information up to date? (Study Group Membership, Study Plan and Schedule) yes During the **meeting in Paris**, it was agreed that we would start the survey during the “Space Week 07” or 50 years after Sputnik. During the **meeting in India**, the approval for the survey to start was given. There was a mad scramble to enable the survey in the six languages that were sought. This only occurred because of great efforts by our language team (lead by Dr. Raitt) and the superb assistance from the Space Generation organization. This activity enabled us to start the survey. Arthur Woods set up the survey on the web and it is being conducted as we discuss this in Paris in March 08.

We are well along the way with the following actions:

Survey is underway at: [www.space-expectations.org](http://www.space-expectations.org)

Well over 1,000 surveys taken (1134 as of 22 Jan 08)

Translations: successful into seven languages

Website: successful into active baseline with 7 languages

Release of announcement: mostly successful into multiple avenues

Product Deliveries on Schedule? : yes

Study Team Member Changes? Current membership is as follows:

David Raitt co-lead, Cathy Swan co-lead, Peter Swan co-lead, Arthur Woods co-lead  
Doug Vakoch, Jerry Grey, Max Grimard, Patrick Gyger, Gerard Brachet, Susmita Mohanty  
Ahmed Azzaoui, Vince Boles, Paul Nelson, Bruce Chesley, Skip Penny, Julie Chesley  
Commission VI leadership: David Raitt, Geoffrey Languedoc, Peter Swan

Action at the Hyderabad meeting: Release the announcement and start the survey!

Name of person providing Study Group Status:

Dr. Peter A. Swan, Study chair