

**IAA Study Group Status Report**  
**Responsible Commission: Commission VI**  
**Study Number and Title: Space Expectation 6.8**  
**Short Study Description: Status Report Date: 10 Mar 2009**

**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, collected 2,000 + inputs, accomplished in 7 languages

**Meeting in Glasgow.** (see minutes).

Presentation of Preliminary results: Dr. Raitt presented the preliminary analysis of the study results. The inputs had topped 1300 surveys and gave a decent reflection of the space public's view. However, it also showed that 1300 subjects were still skewed towards space faring nations and people in the space business. More surveys will help

average the survey takers background and move more towards the general public. During this coming **meeting in Paris**, there was much discussion on schedule and how to proceed. The issue will be to close in Oct 09 [as planned] or not. The current leaning of the leadership team is to close out the survey and make the results available to the public.

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 2,000 surveys taken

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, Cathy Swan, Peter Swan, Arthur Woods co-leads

Doug Vakoch, Jerry Grey, Max Grimard, Patrick Gyger, Gerard Brachet, Susmita

Mohanty Ahmed Azzaoui, Vince Boles, Paul Nelson, Bruce Chesley, Skip Penny

Commission VI leadership: David Raitt, Geoffrey Languedoc, Peter Swan

**Name of person providing Study Group Status:** Dr. Peter A. Swan, Study chair