IAF Committee Briefs



Summer 2022

IAF SPACE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (SOC)

1. Introduction

Despite the ongoing pandemic, operations of spacecrafts either were done from the usual operations centers, with large support from personnel working in the home office. Below are some highlights:

2. Latest Developments

ESA reports:

- ExoMars TGO Support to Mars 2020 on 18 February (2nd relay contact ca. 4h after landing)
- Solar Orbiter Venus Flyby 9 August (min altitude 7995 km)
- BepiColombo Venus Flyby 10 August (min altitude 550 km)
- Integral Mission Rescue 22/23-September
- BepiColombo Mercury Flyby 1 October (min altitude 200 km)
- Solar Orbiter Earth Flyby 27 November (min altitude 460 km)
- ESTRACK ground station support:
 - o Support of DART 24 November
 - o Galileo LEOP Galileo FOC-M9, SAT 27-28 4 December
 - o Support of James Webb (JWST) 25 December 2021
 - o OPSSAT Experiment Service 150 testing days throughout the year

KSAT presented their new concept for Lunar Mission operations:



DLR highlights:



- EnMAP, a new hyperspectral Earth observation mission, now ready for launch (launched on 1 April)
- Mission "Cosmic Kiss" of ESA astronaut Matthias Maurer was well accepted by the German public; will be followed by Samantha Cristoforetti from Italy
- New moon analog facility LUNA at DLR premises in Cologne
- Successful mission operations preparation and execution despite the constraints imposed by the Covid-19 effects

3. Breakthroughs

The launch of JWST on 25 December, 2021 is certainly a milestone in the history of spaceflight.

4. Action plan for the year

The SpaceOps community is preparing for the upcoming 17th SpaceOps conference (SpaceOps 2023) taking place from 6-10 March, 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, which will be hosted by the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC).