

THE RSDO NEWS

May 2004

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A Message From the Chief of the RSDO

In this issue of the RSDO Newsletter, we welcome several new members to our team. Mr. Arthur (Art) Unger has replaced Mr. Bruce Clark (recently retired) as the Associate Chief. Ms. Kimberly (Kim) Butler/Resource Analyst has replaced Ms. Earnestine Smart, who has moved on to a new position. Finally, Ms. Maureen Mathews joined us last August as our new RSDO Secretary. Please join me in extending them a warm welcome.

As you peruse the articles in this issue for the latest RSDO news, you will notice that we are on the brink of undertaking several actions, especially in the contracts arena. A decision on whether to extend the Rapid II contract or perform the Rapid III procurement is imminent. Once this decision is made, we will complete open actions for the On-Ramp 7 procurement. We are also planning to develop a separate rapid acquisition catalog for spacecraft components/subsystems. Finally, we will investigate the possibility of offering a follow-on Quick Ride contract. This contract would procure excess payload capacity aboard commercial spacecraft.

With respect to customer support, the RSDO is still planning to support a number of NASA missions, including the newly formed Lunar Exploration Program Office at Goddard. Currently, we are assisting the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission to procure a study regarding the GPM Core Spacecraft. As always, we stand ready to support any government agency requiring spacecraft procurement.

The RSDO staff also continues to market the Office's capabilities and conduct outreach activities. Several RSDO team members recently attended the 20th National Space Symposium, an annual aerospace technology conference and exhibit held at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

In the coming months, we anticipate that there will be a number of RSDO procurement opportunities arising. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have regarding RSDO services, contracts, or processes.

Sincerely,

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RSDO Chief
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Staffing Updates

RSDO Welcomes New Associate Chief

Art Unger became Acting Associate Chief of RSDO in March 2004, and is currently on assignment from the Space Science Missions Branch of the GSFC Applied Engineering Directorate, Code 594. He has thirty-one years of experience in spacecraft design and development, covering all project lifecycle phases from pre-formulation through launch and checkout. He has been employed at NASA for twenty-four years and holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Case Institute of Technology/Western Reserve University.



Art started his career in 1973 with RCA Astro Electronics Division in Hightstown, NJ, working primarily in the areas of spacecraft power systems, Integration and Test (I & T), and energetic particle analysis. He was a member of the project teams for various spacecraft, and supplied electrical test evaluation throughout the integration, test and launch activities of the Television InfraRed Operational Satellite - Next-generation (TIROS-N) spacecraft. In 1980, he joined NASA, working in the flight instrument test program for the Dynamics Explorer spacecraft. He later joined the TIROS National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - Polar Operational Environmental Satellites (TIROS/NOAA-POES) project in 1982 and held the positions of I & T Manager and later Observatory Manager through the development and launch campaigns of seven NOAA spacecraft, from 1982 to 1996.

In 1996, Art joined the EOS-AM1 (Terra) Project and served as Instrument Accommodations Manager and the Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) Instrument Manager during the integration, test, launch (December 1999) and early operation of Terra.

Following that experience, he joined the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) Preparatory Project (NPP) in 2000. As Spacecraft Manager and RSDO Mission Integration Manager for NPP, Art coordinated the highly successful RSDO Study 1 and Study 2 efforts that resulted in the NPP contract award in early 2002. He was later involved in the launch vehicle interface planning for NPP. In 2003, Art was assigned to the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) Project to aid in planning for the LISA Systems Engineering and I & T procurement. He also served as a member of the RSDO Rapid II On-Ramp 4 and On-Ramp 7 proposal evaluation teams. Welcome to RSDO, Art!

Staffing Updates (continued)

RSDO Welcomes Kimberly Butler

Kim started supporting RSDO in December 2003, as a Resource Analyst. Kim is “matrixed” into the RSDO from the Flight Programs and Projects Directorate, Code 400. She provides business support to the office by submitting and tracking Purchase Request (PR), establishing and monitoring the office's funding and expenditures, and monitoring the travel budget and workforce.



In 1989, Kim began working at Goddard part-time as a Secretary. When she graduated from DuVal High School in 1990, Goddard offered Kim a full time secretarial position. Over the years, Kim attended Prince George's Community College while working full time at Goddard. In 1994, Kim applied for the Professional Intern Program (PIP) and was accepted; that opportunity allowed Kim to transition into the Resources field. Over the last 14 years, Kim has supported a number of offices/projects as a Resource Analyst:

- The Institutional Support Office, Code 201 from April 1994 to December 1998
- The Polar Orbital Environmental Satellite (POES) project from December 1998 to March 2001
- The STAAC Business Management Office from March 2001 to October 2001
- The Information Systems Division from October 2001 to March 2002
- The Office of the Associate Director from March 2002 to Present

Kim is continuing her education at the University of Maryland University College Park, where she is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Business and Finance Management. In 2003, Kim was a Mentor in the Goddard Center-wide Mentoring Program. She is also a member of the African American Recognition Committee (AARC). Kim has achieved several Performance and/or Special Act Awards since working at Goddard for her hard work, dedication, and willingness to take on new challenges. Welcome to RSDO, Kim!

Contracting Officer's Corner

Rapid Contracts Update

Discussions continue regarding the ongoing RAPID II On-Ramp 7. The RAPID III procurement has not yet been initiated because the RSDO is researching the possibility of extending the RAPID II contract's ordering period for an additional three years. In the event that the RAPID II contract is extended, RSDO will contact the current vendors for modifications to their contracts. If the RAPID II contract is extended, vendors not currently holding RAPID II contracts will be provided the opportunity to compete via an On-Ramp. When a decision regarding the potential extension to the RAPID II contract is made, announcements to either notify of the intent to extend or to notify of the upcoming RAPID III procurement will be posted online at <http://www.fedbizopps.gov>.

The RSDO is considering the establishment of a contract vehicle parallel to the RAPID II contract. This new contract vehicle would contain a catalog of spacecraft subsystems and components, and would allow customers to procure these items in a similar manner to the way spacecraft buses are procured via RAPID II. The RSDO is researching the market for the viability of such a contract within our NASA customer base, and investigating the interest level of subsystem and component vendors.

By Rebecca Wilkinson/Contracting Officer

Small Disadvantaged Business Information

Please remember to consider small or disadvantaged businesses when selecting your new subcontractors. Making this effort may even enable you to meet the Small and Disadvantaged Business (SDB) goals contained in your RSA IDIQ contract. Visit <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/codek/>.

Current Business

MMS Project Status Update

The Magnetospheric MultiScale (MMS) Project, and NASA as a whole, are experiencing exciting times since President Bush announced the new Vision for Space Exploration.

The administration's FY05 budget request included some substantial, unexpected, changes to the Solar Terrestrial Probes' (STP) budget line. STP funding for The Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO) and Solar-B—the missions ahead of MMS—leaves insufficient resources for MMS to meet its original schedule.

As a result, several things are happening at MMS. First, we are working with NASA Headquarters to modify the project funding profile and minimize any schedule delays. Secondly, while continuing to proceed, we have stretched some of the near-term formulation activities until we better understand the details of our future funding profile. The Project intends to take full advantage of any additional time to further refine the mission requirements and planning activities.

The two instrument suite teams are fully funded and are continuing their Concept Studies. These studies will be completed in late June. It is expected that NASA will announce the selection of the winning instrument team by the end of the year.

In support of the subsequent MMS Mission Phase A, there will be multiple MMS spacecraft systems study tasks awarded to qualified RSDO vendors. It is expected that these studies will be conducted in mid-FY05. The studies will focus on evaluating the impact of the various MMS instrument suite designs on potential RSDO spacecraft bus designs. Results from the instrument suite/spacecraft system trades will provide assessments of impacts (small or large) to an RSDO-type spacecraft design, and will aid the Project in preparation for the Initial Confirmation Review. The RSDO is ready to support these studies and will commence them upon authorization by MMS.

For further information on MMS, please visit the MMS website at <http://stp.gsfc.nasa.gov/missions/mms/mms.htm>.

By Don Carson/MMS Project Manager

Current Business (continued)

GPM Releases RFI Through RSDO

On March 30, 2004, the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission released a Request For Information (RFI) through RSDO regarding an upcoming study opportunity. The GPM goal is to provide near-global precipitation measurements that will aid scientists in understanding Earth's global water cycle and facilitate the production of more accurate weather and climate forecasts. GPM is designed to be an international effort, involving space agencies and science organizations from nearly all continents.

NASA will supply the GPM Core Spacecraft, which will be dedicated to collecting precipitation information for GPM. The Core Spacecraft will carry two main instruments onboard—a dual-frequency precipitation radar system and a passive microwave radiometer. In conjunction with the Core Spacecraft, a constellation of internationally provided spacecraft will operate onboard passive microwave radiometers, contributing additional measurements to GPM.

NASA's original plan was to design and build the GPM Core Spacecraft in-house. NASA Headquarters, however, has recently directed the project to investigate alternate ways of developing the spacecraft. In response, GPM is inviting RSDO vendors to participate in a study opportunity to investigate procurement of the GPM Core Spacecraft through RSDO. Responses to the GPM RFI were due on April 30, and release of the Request For Proposal (RFP) is anticipated in the near future. GPM expects to announce multiple awards for studies lasting from 3-6 months.



The GPM core spacecraft and constellation will orbit Earth, collecting precipitation data.

Other RSDO News

National Space Symposium

Members of the Goddard RSDO and Integrated Design Capability (IDC) Office attended the 20th National Space Symposium held at the Broadmoor Hotel and Conference Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, during the week of March 29, 2004. This annual symposium is a major commercial, DoD, and civil aerospace technology exhibit and conference held in the U.S. We exhibited RSDO and IDC capabilities and processes, and conducted outreach operations with primary, secondary, and collegiate level students and educators. Goddard team members attending this event were Mick Correia/IDC, Bill Reaves/RSDO, Kevin Maloney/RSDO, Greg Smith/RSDO, and Art Unger/RSDO.