

5 February 2009

Our reference: QR/2009-21/DS/LB/ke

---

**From:** ECSS Steering Board Chairman  
Mr. David Southwood

**To:** Mr. Mike Kearney  
CCSDS Management Council Chairman  
NASA MSFC EO-01  
Huntsville, Alabama 35812  
U.S.A.

**cc.:** MM. A. Hooke, N. Peccia, G. Moury, L. Balestra, ECSS SB members

**Subject: Approval and implementation of MoU between CCSDS and ECSS**

Dear Mr. Kearney,

The ECSS and the CCSDS have recognized that it is in their mutual interest to collaborate in the domain of "Space data and information transfer systems and their interoperability". Therefore, they have established a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) whose main objectives are:

- Early exchange of New Work Items in order to avoid duplication of effort ;
- Cross participation between ECSS and CCSDS to reviews of ECSS standards and CCSDS recommendations, in order to maximize technical expertise available for those reviews and eventually facilitate adoption by the other party ;
- Periodic exchange of planning for standards and recommendations reviews, in order to enable cross participation in both organizations.

I am glad to send you back this MoU signed by ECSS (cf. attachment).

To implement this MoU, it has been agreed that all exchanges of information will be made through designated Points of Contact (PoC) with copies to their deputies. We acknowledge the nomination of Mr Nestor Peccia as the PoC for CCSDS. For ECSS, the assignments are as follows:

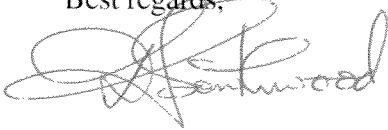
PoC: Mr. Gilles Moury – ECSS Technical Authority Chairman ([gilles.moury@cnes.fr](mailto:gilles.moury@cnes.fr))

Deputy PoC: Mr Luciano Balestra – ECSS Executive Secretary ([luciano.balestra@esa.int](mailto:luciano.balestra@esa.int))

We kindly ask you to copy all exchanges to ECSS Secretariat: [ecss-secretariat@esa.int](mailto:ecss-secretariat@esa.int)

Being convinced that the cooperation between our two standardization organizations will be to our mutual benefit, I am looking forward to a fruitful implementation of this MoU.

Best regards,



David Southwood  
ECSS Steering Board Chairman

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE**  
***CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR SPACE DATA SYSTEMS***  
**AND THE**  
***EUROPEAN COOPERATION FOR SPACE STANDARDIZATION***

**I. THE PARTIES**

The **European Cooperation for Space Standardization (ECSS)** is an initiative established to develop a coherent, single set of user-friendly standards for use in all European space activities. ECSS members are primarily European-based space agencies and industries.

The overall objectives of using the ECSS Standards are:

1. to achieve more cost effective space programs and projects in Europe,
2. to improve the competitiveness of European space industry,
3. to improve the quality and safety of space projects and products, and
4. to facilitate clear and unambiguous communication between all parties involved, in a form suitable for reference or quotation in legally binding documents.

The **Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS)** is established as a forum for international cooperation in the development of data handling techniques. The CCSDS members are the major space agencies of the world, working together in a chartered forum and supported by their related space industries. The purposes of the CCSDS are as follows:

1. to provide a forum whereby interested agencies may exchange technical information relative to the development or application of standards for space-related information technologies;
2. to identify those common elements of space data systems which, if implemented in a standardized way, will result in significant enhancements in the operation of future cooperative space missions, or in the sharing of mission products;
3. to develop through consensus appropriate Recommended Standards that will guide the development of agency infrastructure so that interoperability is maximized;
4. to facilitate and promote the use of software and hardware developed under the CCSDS program by all participating agencies;
5. to promote the application of the Recommended Standards within the space mission community; and
6. to maintain cognizance of other international standardization activities that may have direct impact on the design or operation of space mission data systems.

The ECSS and the CCSDS, hereby called the Parties, recognize that it is in their mutual interest to collaborate in the domain of “SPACE DATA AND INFORMATION TRANSFER SYSTEMS AND THEIR INTEROPERABILITY”, herein called the “Domain”.

This document constitutes a Memorandum Of Understanding between the Parties.

**II. OBJECTIVES OF THE COLLABORATION**

The overall Parties’ objectives of the collaboration in the “Domain” are:

1. to avoid duplication of, and conflicts between, their standards;
2. to maximize the effectiveness of space standardization by avoiding duplication of effort;
3. to ensure that standards are published in a form such that they meet the needs of the various user communities;
4. to ensure that current standards and work plans of both Parties are managed to deliver consistent standards across the “Domain”;
5. to take into account comments from both parties in the preparation of their respective standards.

### **III. THE ROLES OF THE PARTIES AND THE WORKING METHODOLOGY**

To achieve the objectives of the collaboration in the "Domain", the Parties shall:

1. Promptly exchange notification of all New Work Items (NWIs) in order to provide early opportunities for comments, consistency checks, prioritization of the activities and avoidance of duplication;
2. Periodically exchange their respective work plans for review and exchange comments on those reviews.
3. Ensure that ECSS is made aware of formal CCSDS agency reviews of draft CCSDS Recommended Standards and Recommended Practices, so as to encourage the full range of European expertise to contribute to those reviews;
4. Ensure that CCSDS is made aware of formal reviews of draft ECSS standards, so as to encourage the full range of world-wide expertise to contribute to those reviews;
5. Periodically review (e.g. once a year) the implementation of this MOU and jointly evaluate the results in order to recommend any necessary modifications, improvements or amendments to the collaboration.

The collaboration process shall be initiated and then coordinated by Points of Contact (PoCs) designated by the Parties, i.e., a prime and deputy PoC for each Party. The exchange of information will take place between the designated PoCs, who will commit to forwarding the information within their own Parties to those best able to comment on the information.

For the ECSS, the PoC shall directly report to the ECSS Technical Authority (TA). For the CCSDS, the PoC shall directly report to the CCSDS Engineering Steering Group.

### **IV. COMMITMENT OF THE PARTIES**

The Parties commit:

1. to make their best efforts to meet the objectives of the collaboration in the "Domain";
2. to promptly nominate their respective PoCs;
3. to regularly provide information to the other Party, via the PoCs, on the planning and status of their respective standardization activities as described in section III above;
4. to provide the PoCs with any additional information necessary to fulfill this collaboration MOU.



signed for CCSDS

signed for ECSS

Date:

Date 5 February 2009

Mr. David Southwood  
Chairman, ECSS Steering Board

ESA ESTEC  
Keplerlaan 1, P.O. Box 299  
2200 AG Noordwijk (The Netherlands)  
e-mail: David.Southwood@esa.int