



SPACE CITY - HOUSTON CHAPTER

GALAXY

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August 2001

NATIONAL CONTRACT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (NCMA) SPACE CITY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Herb Baker

I hope all 378 of you (that's right -- our chapter has 378 members!) are making plans to hear JSC Acting Director Roy Estess speak at our August luncheon. He's an excellent speaker and I expect he will offer some interesting insights into what's going on within NASA and here at JSC. Speaking of speakers, we just received a commitment from Tom Luedtke, the Associate Administrator for Procurement at NASA HQS, to be a speaker at our annual Fall Conference. We are also inviting Dan Goldin, the NASA administrator and Michelle Currier, the new NCMA National President to speak at that conference. Co-chairpersons Tom Scott and Rosalie Solis are already hard at work making plans for that conference which you can read more about elsewhere in this newsletter. Of course, I'm sure they could use some additional volunteers. Please give them a call if you would like to lend a hand in that effort. I'm sure it will be very rewarding.

I would also like to get in another plug for our new chapter website -- ncmaspacecity.org. We want to make it a useful resource for you so please take a look at it, add it to your favorites/bookmarks, and let us know what you think about it. See you at the next meeting!

Herb

THE SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

by Tom Devitt



Our Chapter's July Luncheon speaker, Michael J. (Mike) McCulley (pictured above), spoke on "The Space Shuttle Program: Past, Present & Future". As the Chief Operating Officer of United Space Alliance (USA) and a former astronaut, Mr. McCulley was certainly the right person to speak on the topic. In his current capacity at USA, which he has held since November 1999, he has primary responsibility for the day-to-day operations and overall management of USA, the prime contractor for the Space Shuttle Program.

Mr. McCulley gave an insider's perspective on the Space Shuttle program. He talked about the comprehensive reevaluation of the program that occurred following the Challenger accident and the improvements that were made to the hardware and the program as a result. He drew parallels between actions taken following Challenger and those taken following the Apollo 1 fire. In each case there was a complete reevaluation of all aspects of the program - safety, reliability, complexity, maintainability, etc. Everything was looked at from the ground up. The result in both cases was better flight hardware, procedures, safety and an increased confidence in manned space flight.

He also spoke about his experience as an astronaut, specifically as a pilot on Shuttle Transportation System (STS) Mission 34 which deployed the Galileo spacecraft on its ten year journey to explore Jupiter and its moons.

He then explained how communication problems with the STS program began to highlight weaknesses in how the program was organized and managed. He gave the example of a Fuel Cell failure investigation in the early 1990's that

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS For Fall Conference

NCMA will host a Fall Conference on November 7th at the Hobby Hilton Hotel in Houston. This all day event will cost \$150 per person and will include a dinner the evening of the 6th, and a continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks on the 7th. The conference topic is "Contract Management: The Road Ahead." More information will follow.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the conference. If you are interested, please contact Rosalie Solis at 281-244-7147.

EDITOR STANDS CORRECTED

As the *Galaxy* Editor, I would like to apologize for a mistake I made in editing Michelle Isermann's article entitled "Cruisin'" in the June/July *Galaxy* issue. The name of the cruise ship was the **Star Gazer**, not the Star Galaxy.

Karen Pennington

NATIONAL NEWS



DATABASE CHANGES

In addition to submitting address/mail code changes to Carolyn Biggerstaff (see pg. 4), remember to notify NCMA National of changes to your mailing address, phone number and e-mail address as well. You may do this at the following website:

<http://www.ncmahq.org/memsvcs/membupd.html>

FASTBREAK

NCMA National recently issued the first edition of "FASTBREAK", a monthly e-mail update designed to provide NCMA members with information and tools to take full advantage of NCMA membership benefits. This edition emphasized that NCMA is dedicated to being a resource throughout your professional career, and that services are available to make your personal and professional aspirations a reality. Over the coming months National will be highlighting a suite of NCMA membership benefits developed to give you an edge in an ever-changing and increasingly competitive atmosphere/marketplace. All you have to do is ensure National has your current e-mail address to receive this informative monthly electronic mailing (see Database Changes above).



UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST LUNCHEON

When: Thursday, August 16th
Where: Nassau Bay Hilton
Topic: Issues impacting JSC and JSC Programs
Speaker: Mr. Roy Estess, Acting Director of JSC*

*Mr. Estess, the Director of NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center in south Mississippi, was temporarily assigned to JSC in February 2001.

FALL CONFERENCE

When: Tues. Evening dinner, November 6th, and Wed. Conference, November 7
Where: Hobby Hilton
Topic: Contract Management: The Road Ahead

Training Opportunities

University of Houston-Clear Lake, along with our chapter as co-sponsor, is offering the following class at its campus:

Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) September 25-26, 2001

Seminar Fees: \$425 for 1 person; \$375 for 3 or more participants from the same organization registering at the same time.

Flyers were sent out to all members in last month's *Galaxy*. Call (281)283-3121 for more information or to register.

In addition, NCMA National is offering the following classes in San Diego:

Oral Presentations September 5, 2001

Seminar Fees: \$595 NCMA members; \$695 non-members

Negotiation Strategies & Techniques September 6 - 7, 2001

Seminar Fees: \$695 NCMA members; \$795 non-members

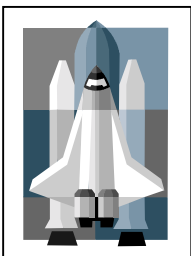
For more upcoming courses available nationwide, visit <http://members.ncmahq.org/learningcenter>

concluded that the size and complexity of the STS Program was a direct contributor to the failure experienced in this case. Government to Contractor communication had to be improved and the 'this is my sand-box!' mentality had to be overcome. The result was the initial concept of a single prime contract where essentially one contractor would be responsible for Space Shuttle Operations. The groundwork for the Space Flight Operations Contract was laid. Mr. McCulley gave a first hand account of how difficult it was for the then incumbent STS Contractors to come together to allow the program to evolve into what it needed to become. He explained repeated fits and starts which occurred until it became apparent that change was inevitable and those who did not support the change would not be part of the program in the future. With the United Space Alliance venture, the concept of a single contractor being responsible for STS operations came closer to becoming a reality.

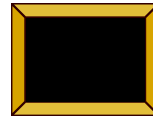
He further explained that despite the turmoil that accompanied the establishment of the SFOC, there were (on average) more than 7 successful launches per year during this time. He said this success was a testament to the professionalism and commitment of all those involved in the STS program. He also said that from a procurement standpoint, efforts taken to ensure contractual continuity during this time were also extremely difficult - yet successful.

Was the SFOC a success, he asked? His answer was an unqualified yes in increased safety, mission success, improved quality and cost reduction. Mr. McCulley explained that the past three flights have been almost completely problem-free. This is no mean feat considering the technical challenge that each flight poses.

What is the Future for the Space Shuttle Program? Mr. McCulley said that even if the Government decided today to replace the Shuttle it would take many years before a reliable alternative could be found. He expected a two year SFOC option to be exercised in the near future for FY 03 and 04 with a longer term contract following these options. According to Mr. McCulley, the SFOC of the future may look very different from the current contract with Privatization significantly changing how the program is managed. However, it is too soon to know for sure. He closed by providing what he thought were the keys to the success of the program in the future from a procurement standpoint:



- ~ NASA and its STS contractors had to be (above all) open and honest
- ~ Contracts had to be clearly written so as to avoid differing expectations
- ~ A cooperative spirit had to be kept alive in all procurement matters
- ~ NASA and STS contractors should always strive for Win-Win solutions



**THE
BULLETIN
BOARD**

Director of Contracts

**Unidynamics, Inc.
188 FM 3083, Conroe, TX 77301
(936)539-4545
(936)539-4532 FAX**

Unidynamics, Inc. currently has a job opening for the Director of Contracts position with the following duties:

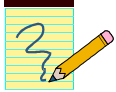
Supervise the Contract Managers in negotiations, management of contract changes, and project management; review and understand the legal requirements of commercial, government, and international contracts; maintain a strong understanding of project schedules, associated costs, profitability and cost to complete versus budget. Prepare weekly and monthly reports for management outlining the overall status of outstanding proposals and current contracts.

Requirements: BA in Business with 7 - 10 years experience in contract/project management. Prior supervisory skills required. Must be proficient in Excel, MSFT Projects, MS Word, and ERP applications. Ability to demonstrate understanding of finance and P&L elements with a project management environment. Must demonstrate broad understanding of contracts - commercial, governmental, and international T&C's, as well as an ability to interface smoothly with other departmental disciplines. Interpersonal skills for frequent customer contact required. Occasional travel required. Comfort level acting as the company's business manager -- setting the standard for professional conduct -- and experience presenting to various levels of company and customer contacts required. Unidynamics is an equal opportunity employer. M/F/H/V

More information on this position is posted at unidynamics.com and CareerBuilder.com.



Meet Joan Shack and Cindy Vourganas, who are the ladies you contact to make your luncheon reservations each month, plus they check you in at the door. Thanks to these ladies and to Dan Gillaspie, who helped the chapter out with the contractor reservations last year.



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NATIONAL CONTRACT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**REMEMBER
LUNCHEON
ON AUGUST 16th**