R.E.L.M.: Remote Educational Learning Module

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With NASA's new space directive to return to the Moon and then to go to Mars using a crew exploration vehicle, the space shuttle fleet is planed for retirement. Accordingly, many shuttle-based research programs have been officially closed. Among these are educational outreach programs such as the Get Away Special and SEM. The new SEM Satchel program has been instigated to help provide for a continuation of student-based space research, but with limited availability other avenues for student-based microgravity research are being investigated.

To help open more opportunities for students to perform microgravity research, the Utah State University Get Away Special Microgravity Research Team is developing the RELM, or Remote Educational Learning Module. Through the proposed RELM program, K-12 students would find it easier to build and place their own experiments on NASA's DC-9. Programmable experiment control systems, power systems, data acquisition systems, and digital video would be provided to the user through the RELM. While the RELM is being developed for the DC-9, considerations are being taken to design it so that it can be readily adapted to the future crew exploration vehicle in anticipation of opening new opportunities for student research on the upcoming horizon.