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AN APPROACH TO THE DESIGN OF OPERATIONS SYSTEMS

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1. BACKGROUND

The MultiMission Control Team (MMCT) consists of mission controllers which provides Real-Time operations support for the Mars Observer project. The Real-Time Operations task is to insure the integrity of the ground data system, to insure that the configuration is correct to support the mission, and to monitor the spacecraft for the Spacecraft Team. Operations systems are typically developed by adapting operations systems from previous projects. Problems tend to be solved empirically when they are either anticipated or observed in testing. This development method has worked in the past when time was available for extensive Ops testing. In the present NASA budget environment a more cost conscious design approach has become necessary. Cost is a concern because operations is an ongoing, continuous activity. Reducing costs entails reducing staff. Reducing staffing levels potentially increases the risk of mission failure. Therefore, keeping track of the risk level is necessary.

2. INTRODUCTION

The role of the MMCT is to interact with the process (Mars Observer mission) to accomplish required tasks. The organizations design discussed here is to develop an organization of people, equipment, software, and procedures that will accomplish these tasks. The goal is to provide a design technique that can produce an operations organization that will meet the requirements placed on it, with minimum costs and with the understanding of the risks involved.

The design approach is based on considering the Mars Observer mission as a process. The Mars Observer mission is a rather linear process. The spacecraft is launched; then, it goes through a well specified sequence of actions until the end of the mission.

The following Operations System design approach was developed for the design of the MMCT to support the Mars Observer mission.

The design technique consists of:

Identifying the Mars Observer Mission process.

Modeling the process.

Identifying the requirements imposed by the Mars Observer Project on the MMCT.

Synthesizing the MMCT scenarios that respond to the mission requirements, both imposed and implied requirements.

Derive requirements for support from other parts of the operations organization.

Analyzing scenarios for staffing requirements, training requirements, workload problems, etc.

Reviewing the imposed requirements from the Project for feasibility. Requirements that cannot be accommodated are negotiated.

Developing staffing plans, training plans, test plans, etc.

The Mission sequence model is documented in the MMCT Design Document. The Project requirements and the MMCT operating scenarios are integrated into the design document.

This approach to the design of the MMCT provides a more complete understanding of the mission processes and a cost effective method of the tailoring of the MMCT operations system to support the Mars Observer mission. The purpose of this paper is to present this approach and discuss its merits.

3. APPROACH

The Mars Observer mission process is identified from the Mars Observer Mission Sequence Plan (Ref. 1). This document identifies the spacecraft activities that are to be supported by the MMCT. The Mars Observer Mission Operations specification Volume 3: Operations (Ref. 2) present the requirements that the MMCT must meet to support the project.

The mission sequence is modeled in a form that allows for hierarchic refinements. To facilitate this effort, the commercial computer program SDDL was chosen. SDDL is a Pseudo English language intended for software program design. The Mars Observer Mission Sequence Plan was the basis for decomposing the mission process from an overall description through subprocesses to elementary processes. Typically, these elementary processes were sufficiently simple to be described on a single page. SDDL provided the capability to reference subprocesses through CALL statements in the manner of a software subroutine. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the decomposition of the mission process.

Verification of the process model is provided by joint reviews between the Mars Observer MMCT design team and the Spacecraft Control Team (SCT). The requirements presented by the Mars Observer Project are analyzed in terms of their impact on the Mars Observer MMCT organization system. The requirements are clarified so that they are consistent for both the originating and the responding organizations. The imposed requirements are integrated into the

design document where they apply. SDDL has the capability of indexing the requirements and placing the index at the end of the design document. Figure 3 illustrates the requirements and the requirements index.

MMCT operations scenarios are developed to accomplish the required tasks. They are written into the Mars Observer process model to form the MMCT Design Document. Scenarios that satisfy the imposed requirements are integrated with the requirements to provide requirements traceability. Operations scenarios are illustrated in Figures 2 and 3.

The requirements are then negotiated between the Mars Observer MMCT and the Mars Observer Project. Requirements are accepted, waived, or when problems exist workaround solutions are identified. The requirements are refined and documented in the design document.

The operating scenarios are reviewed by experienced mission controllers. Experience from prior missions is used to test the validity of the scenarios. A person with actual experience usually can tell whether a task (scenario) can be accomplished in the time required and with the resources allowed.

From the Mission Controller Team scenarios, the resources required to support the Mars Observer mission are identified. These resources include staffing, data, hardware, software, work-station displays, procedures, logs, reports, and management interactions. Displays that are required to support specific MMCT tasks are identified, specified, and indexed in the design document.

Derived requirements identified above are placed in the Design Document at their point of application and again are indexed with the SDDL indexing capability. Derived requirements are illustrated in Figures 2 and 4. Derived requirements are requirements that are derived from the exposition of the operating scenarios. They are the data, procedures, equipments, support, etc. that are recognized as needed to accomplish the required MMCT tasks.

Discrepancies discovered in the process of developing and analyzing scenarios are recorded as unresolved issues. Unresolved issues are identified and indexed. This allows unresolved issues to be tracked. The unresolved issues index is illustrated in Figure 5.

Scenarios are analyzed and workload studies are performed. These workload studies are used to identify when controllers are overloaded. They also identify when one controller may be available for additional mission responsibilities, thereby improving multimission operation.

The detailed workload studies and requirements analyses indicate when a specific spacecraft sequence overloads the mission controller, or when resources are not adequate to support the mission operations. This provides an understanding of specific risks of failure. It provides the basis for the MMCT development team to negotiate additional staffing, specific workstation displays, software tools, data validation programs, additional spacecraft or mission information, or if required additional time to accomplish specific tasks.

The MMCT Design Document then provides the basis for staffing and training plans. The design document provides the basis for determining whether the mission controller will be operating the Knowledge based mode or the Procedural based mode.

One of the basic parameters of designing an operations system is whether the operation will be Knowledge based or Procedural based. That is, will the normal operation be based on the operators knowledge of the process or will the operator normally be guided by preplanned procedures. The advantage of Procedural based operations design is that the skill requirements on the operator is less than for a Knowledge based operations system. We can expect the operator costs to be less for Procedural based system than for Knowledge based system. Procedural based system design can be used when the basic process is well known and relatively simple (i.e. procedures can be written), and the

basic system is stable (i.e. procedures are continuously valid).

When the basic system process is not well understood or the process changes, adequate procedures are difficult, therefore the system must be operated as a Knowledge based system. This requires that the operator be sufficiently knowledgeable of the system process that he can recognize when problems occur and can formulate plans to resolve the problems. The advantage of a Knowledge based system is that preplanning is minimized, and the operator responds to problems when they occur. If a Procedural based operation is appropriate, then the necessary procedures are identified and plans for developing them are generated. If a Knowledge based operations is more appropriate, then the necessary training plans are identified and developed.

4. CONCLUSION

The Mars Observer MMCT Design Document, as presented in the SDDL format, serves as the repository for the Mars Observer mission process model, the imposed requirements, the synthesized Mars Observer Controller responsibilities, the derived requirements, and unresolved issues.

The Mars Observer MMCT Design Document provides the basis for developing operations procedures, staffing plans, and training plans.

The Mars Observer MMCT Design Document provides a clear basis for the negotiation of resources with other organizations. It also provides the tracking of derived requirements and unresolved issues. It provides a tool for working out the details of the implementation. It provides the structure on which the details of the operations scenarios are analyzed to uncover problems and inconsistencies.

The design techniques presented for the MMCT Operations design provide a clear, rational, cost effective design process.

With a better understanding of the Operations System development come better cost control and risk management.

5. REFERENCES

1. Mars Observer Mission Sequence Plan, Vol 1: Mission Sequencing Scenarios, 642-313, Vol. 1. November, 1991. Jet Propulsion Laboratory, JPL D-3826, Vol 1.

2. Mars Observer Mission Operations Specifications, Vol 3: Operations Encounter Version, 642-315, Vol 3. September, 1991. Jet Propulsion Laboratory, JPL D-3822.


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226 PROGRAM C1_Activities
227 SELECT
228 CASE Launch playback, load A
229     Send command load C1A                               (I+1/12:00:00)
230
231     CALL Commanding----->( 46)
232     CALL C1A_Activities----->( 11)
233
234 CASE REDMAN load
235     Send command REDMAN load
236     CALL Commanding----->( 46)
237     CALL REDMAN_Activities----->( 13)
238
239 CASE Propulsion priming, MAG & GRS boom extensions, load B
240     Send command load C1B                               (I+3/12:00:00)
241     CALL Commanding----->( 46)
242     CALL C1B_Activities----->( 14)
243
244 CASE PDS health check & GRS calibration data, load C
245     +-----+
246     + If any anomaly or other difficulty is encountered during +
247     + the spacecraft checkout, this sequence load may be omitted +
248     + to allow more time for the ground to interact with +
249     + the spacecraft. +
250     +-----+
251
252     Send command load C1C                               (I+5/12:00:00)
253
254     CALL Commanding----->( 46)
255     CALL C1C_Activities----->( 17)
256
257 CASE Tank Pressurization, load D
258     Send command load C1D to open valve 7
259     (I+11/12:00:00)
260     CALL Commanding----->( 46)
261     CALL C1D_Activities----->( 18)
262
263 CASE Tank Pressurization, Load E
264     IF valve 7 was successfully opened
265         Send command load C1-E(P) to open valve 5       (I+13/04:00:00)
266         CALL Commanding----->( 46)
267         CALL C1EP_Activities----->( 20)
268     ELSE
269         Send command load C1-E(B) to open
270         both valves 5 and 8                             (I+13/04:00:00)
271         CALL Commanding----->( 46)
272         CALL C1EB_Activities----->( 21)
273     ENDIF
274
275 CASE Tank Pressurization, Load F
276     IF valve 5 was not successfully opened
277         Send command load C1F to open valve 6           (I+13/12:00:00)
278         CALL Commanding----->( 46)
279         CALL C1F_Activities----->( 22)
280     ENDIF
281 ENDSELECT
282

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288 PROGRAM C1A_Activities
289 *****
290 * This is the scenario for the mission controller to handle *
291 * the C1A activities *
292 *****

```

Derived Requirement
 ---->

[C1A activities scenario]
 [IN.01.1 C1A activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT]

```

300 Confirm USO selected (LQ013/L0020) (I+2/16:00:00)
301 Confirm Ranging enabled (L0009/L0016) (I+2/16:00:00)
302 Confirm RPA 2 filament is off (L0029) (I+2/16:00:30)
303 Callup -DTR display-
304 Confirm that DTR1 is active (C0016) (I+2/16:01:00)
305 Confirm Sun Monitor disabled (?) (I+2/16:02:00)
306 [IN.01.2 What is the Sun Monitor disabled channel number]
307
308 Conf long-term gyro recovery enabled (F4064) (I+2/16:03:00)
309
310 Confirm new battery charge rate (I+2/16:04:00)
311 Charge rate 1: E0501 2: E0503
312 Voltage limits 1: E0301(H)
313 2: E0303(H)
314
315 Playback DTR3 at 8 kbps (I+2/16:30:00)
316
317 CALL DTR_Playback----->( 41)
318 Playback DTR2 at 32 kbps (I+2/20:00:00)
319
320 CALL DTR_Playback----->( 41)
321 Return to 2 kbps ENG telemetry (I+2/23:00:30)
322

```

----- MMCT Scenario

----- Unresolved Issue

Figure 2

```

1891 PROGRAM Station_Data_Recall
1892
1893 *****
1894 * The following procedure is used to recall recorded data *
1895 * from the station that for some reason did not get into the PDB. *
1896 *****
1897 "R 5.2.2.1.7 Telemetry data gaps, playback" <----- Requirement
1898
1899 | Telemetry data playback from DSCC scenario |
1900 | IN.29.1 TLM data playback from DSCC scenario needs validation |
1901
1902 Request DSCC to playback required telemetry data
1903
1904 Configure SFOC for DSCC data playback
1905
1906 Confirm DSCC playback
1907
1908 Confirm telemetry playback data received at PDB
1909
1910 Log telemetry playback
1911
1912 Return to
1913 CALL Outgoing_Station----->( 52)
1914
1915
1916 ENDPROGRAM

```

MMCT Scenario



```

1979 PROGRAM Imposed_Requirements
1980
1981 *****
1982 * All the imposed requirements are obtained from the *
1983 * Mission Operations Specification Volume 3: Operations *
1984 *****
1985
1986 "R 2.3.1.3 Spacecraft and Ground Health Monitoring"
1987
1988 The FPSO/MCT shall monitor the spacecraft and GDS data when
1989 provided with valid spacecraft/ground predicts, standards,
1990 and limits. The following monitoring scenario supports
1991 this requirement.
1992 CALL Monitor----->( 55)
1993
1994 "R 5.2.2.1.7 Telemetry data gaps, playback"
1995
1996 In the event of telemetry data gaps that need to be filled to
1997 meet Project requirements, the MCT shall coordinate with DSOT
1998 and DAT to assure that telemetry data is recalled from the GIF
1999 or DSCC as soon as possible after the end of the tracking pass
2000 but not to exceed 12 hours.
2001 CALL Station_Data_Recall----->( 53)
2002
2003 ENDPROGRAM

```

Requirements Definition



Imposed Requirements CROSS REFERENCE LISTING			PAGE 71
R 2.3.1.3	Spacecraft and Ground Health Monitoring		
PAGE	56	PROGRAM Imposed_Requirements	1986
R 5.2.1.3			
PAGE	61	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2213
R 5.2.1.4			
PAGE	61	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2206
R 5.2.1.6.1			
PAGE	61	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2218
R 5.2.1.6.2			
PAGE	61	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2233
R 5.2.1.6.3			
PAGE	61	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2239
R 5.2.1.7.2			
PAGE	61	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2245
R 5.2.1.7.3			
PAGE	61	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2252
R 5.2.2.1.1.1			
PAGE	62	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2259
R 5.2.2.1.1.2			
PAGE	62	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2264
R 5.2.2.1.1.3			
PAGE	62	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2270
R 5.2.2.1.5.2			
PAGE	62	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2275
R 5.2.2.1.6			
PAGE	62	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2281
R 5.2.2.1.7			
PAGE	62	PROGRAM Unallocated_Requirements	2291
R 5.2.2.1.7	Telemetry data gaps, playback		
PAGE	53	PROGRAM Station_Data_Recall	1898
PAGE	56	PROGRAM Imposed_Requirements	1994

<----- Requirements Index

Figure 3

	2007	PROGRAM Derived_Requirements	
	2008		
	2009	'D.1 A top level display is required'	
	2010		
	2011	This display provides a GO/NOGO indication of the configuration	
	2012	and performance of each of the S/C and GDS system.	
	2013	CALL Monitor----->	(55)
	2014		
	2015	'D.2.1 DTR playback display'	
	2016		
	2017	A display is required to support the DTR activities scenarios.	
	2018	CALL DTR_Playback----->	(41)
	2019	CALL DTR_Repack----->	(42)
	2020	CALL DTR_End_of_Record----->	(43)
	2021		

		'D.2.4 Spacecraft Maneuver display'	
		A display is required to support the spacecraft maneuver	
		scenario.	
Derived Requirements	2025	CALL Maneuver----->	(24)
Definition			
		'D.3.1 C1A display'	
	2026		
	2030	A display is required to support the C1A mission segment.	
	2031	CALL C1A_Activities----->	(11)
	2032	CALL REDMAN_Activities----->	(13)
	2033		
	2034	'D.3.2 C1B display'	
	2035		
	2036	A display is required to support the C1B mission segment.	
	2037	CALL C1B_Activities----->	(14)
	2038		
	2039	'D.3.3 C1C display'	
	2040		
	2041	A display is required to support the C1C mission segment.	
	2042	CALL C1C_Activities----->	(17)
	2043		
	2044	'D.3.4 C1D display'	
	2045		
	2046	A display is required to support the C1D mission segment.	
	2047	CALL C1D_Activities----->	(18)
	2048	CALL C1EP_Activities----->	(20)
	2049	CALL C1EB_Activities----->	(21)
	2050	CALL C1F_Activities----->	(22)
	2051		
	2052	'D.3.6 C3A display'	
	2053		
	2054	A display is required to support the C3A mission segment.	
	2055		
	2056	CALL C3A----->	(26)
	2057		

Derived Requirements			PAGE 72
CROSS REFERENCE LISTING			

D.1 A top level display is required			
PAGE 57	PROGRAM Derived_Requirements		2009
D.2.1 DTR display			
PAGE 41	PROGRAM DTR_Playback		1522
PAGE 42	PROGRAM DTR_Repack		1570
PAGE 43	PROGRAM DTR_End_of_Record		1629
D.2.1 DTR playback display			
PAGE 57	PROGRAM Derived_Requirements		2015
D.2.4 Spacecraft Maneuver display			
PAGE 57	PROGRAM Derived_Requirements		2022
D.2.5 Spacecraft Maneuver display			
PAGE 24	PROGRAM Maneuver		822
D.3.1 C1A display			
PAGE 11	PROGRAM C1A_Activities		
PAGE 57	PROGRAM Derived_Requirements		
D.3.10 C5 display			
PAGE 34	PROGRAM Outer_Cruise_Transition		1269
PAGE 58	PROGRAM Derived_Requirements		2075
D.3.2 C1B display			
PAGE 14	PROGRAM C1B_Activities		403
PAGE 57	PROGRAM Derived_Requirements		2034
D.3.3 C1C display			
PAGE 17	PROGRAM C1C_Activities		509
PAGE 57	PROGRAM Derived_Requirements		2039
D.3.4 C1D display			
PAGE 18	PROGRAM C1D_Activities		543
PAGE 57	PROGRAM Derived_Requirements		2044

← Derived Requirements Index

Figure 4

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IN.01.1 C1A activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT		
PAGE 11 PROGRAM C1A Activities	345	
IN.01.2 What is the Sun Monitor disabled channel number		← Unresolved Issue Index
PAGE 11 PROGRAM C1A Activities		
IN.01.4 How to confirm that heads are parked		
PAGE 11 PROGRAM C1A Activities	345	
IN.02.1 REDMAN activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT		
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN Activities	360	
IN.02.2 What is the battery temp cont channel number		
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN Activities	364	
IN.02.3 What is the battery charge contr channel number		
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN Activities	367	
IN.02.4 Is E0001 the correct CN for battery backup charge?		
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN Activities	371	
IN.02.5 How is the contingency alert enable confirmed		
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN Activities	374	
IN.02.6 How is the telemetry Verification enable confirmed		
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN Activities	377	
IN.02.8 What parameters and thresholds are used in REDMAN		
PAGE 13 PROGRAM REDMAN Activities	386	
IN.03.1 C1B activities scenario needs validation		
PAGE 14 PROGRAM C1B Activities	400	
IN.03.2 How is Biprop system vented and primed confirmed		
PAGE 14 PROGRAM C1B Activities	411	
IN.03.3 Do we need to look at the HGA GDE on signal?		
PAGE 14 PROGRAM C1B Activities	416	
IN.05.1 C1C activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT		
PAGE 17 PROGRAM C1C Activities	506	
IN.06.1 C1D activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT		
PAGE 18 PROGRAM C1D Activities	540	
IN.07.1 C1-E(P) activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT		
PAGE 20 PROGRAM C1EP Activities	608	
IN.08.1 C1-E(B) activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT		
PAGE 21 PROGRAM C1EB Activities	662	
IN.09.1 C1-F activities scenario should be reviewed with SCT		
PAGE 22 PROGRAM C1F Activities	718	
IN.10.1 TCM-1 Operational scenario should be reviewed with SCT		
PAGE 23 PROGRAM TCM 1	772	
IN.11.1 Maneuver scenario should be reviewed with SCT		
PAGE 24 PROGRAM Maneuver	817	
IN.11.2 What is MCT responsibility during maneuvers		
PAGE 24 PROGRAM Maneuver	819	
IN.11.3 How do we confirm spacecraft momentum unload		
PAGE 24 PROGRAM Maneuver	825	
IN.11.4 What does MCT do on a faulty maneuver		
PAGE 24 PROGRAM Maneuver	863	
IN.12.1 Payload checkout scenario should be reviewed with SCT		
PAGE 26 PROGRAM C3A	936	
IN.12.2 What is the PDS write protect on/off channel number		
PAGE 26 PROGRAM C3A	949	
IN.12.3 How are three redundant PDS memory readouts confirmed		
PAGE 26 PROGRAM C3A	960	
IN.12.4 How is command PDS to RAM confirmed		
PAGE 26 PROGRAM C3A	963	
IN.12.5 On switch to S&E-1 MBR, is there any effect on GDS		

Figure 5