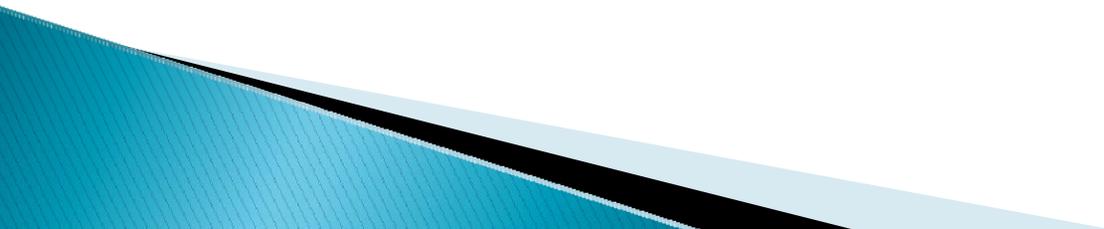


# NASA Advisory Council Exploration Committee

## Operability

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# Operability Considerations

- ▶ NASA has recently created a Constellation Space Transportation Planning Office to begin thinking about operations aspects of Constellation missions
- ▶ This planning office will lead to establishing a Constellation Space Transportation Program (CSTP).
- ▶ Operability is defined as the system characteristics required to ensure safe flight while minimizing fixed and variable costs during the production, operating, and sustaining phases of the Constellation Program.
- ▶ The Exploration Committee welcomes this focus at a relatively early stage in the Constellation Program. It notes that a similar focus was missing at a similar point in the Space Shuttle DDR&E effort, with negative consequences when the Shuttle became operational after its fourth flight.

# Committee Observations

- ▶ Current planning efforts are focused only on Constellation missions to ISS.
  - ▶ The Committee questions whether including operability considerations related to lunar missions, even at this early stage of planning for those missions, might have benefits for the Constellation Program overall in terms of integrated planning for operability
  - ▶ The Committee needs to carry out additional fact-finding before it would be in a position to make any recommendations regarding the evolution of the CSTP.
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