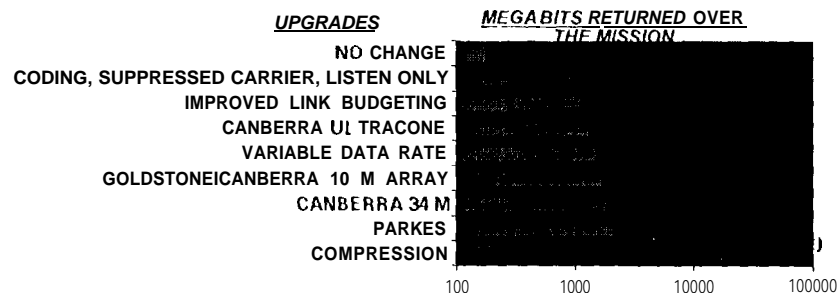


AUTOMATED OPERATIONS FOR GALILEO COMMUNICATIONS

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Abstract

After the Galileo High Gain Antenna (HGA) failed to deploy in 1991, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) faced the challenge of implementing a science-rich mission with a Low-Gain Antenna (LGA), at data rates that were almost four orders of magnitude less than originally planned. To accomplish this, JPL has completely redesigned the downlink to maximize the data return and increase its reliability, requiring the implementation of dramatic changes both in the Galileo on-board software and in the Deep Space Network (DSN). Key features of the new link include data compression, antenna arraying, recording and reprocessing of telemetry, suppressed carrier tracking, and highly efficient error-correcting coding, resulting in an effective data return that is approximately two orders of magnitude above that that would have been feasible with the LGA had the changes not been implemented (see figure). In particular, JPL has developed and deployed a new DSN Galileo Telemetry (DGT) subsystem at the three DSN sites: Goldstone, USA, Tidbinbilla, Australia, and Madrid, Spain. To maximize the data return, the DGT parameters (data rate, tracking loop bandwidths, array configuration) are continuously adjusted and the link operates on a razor-thin margin. Because the operation will continue for almost two years, 24-hours-per-day, the DGT is designed as an automated system that continuously monitors and adjusts its operational parameters and environment in response to either pre-loaded sequences or changes in internal state, with minimal operator intervention. The single-antenna DGTs have been deployed at the DSN sites and the follow-on array DGTs will be deployed shortly. In addition to the Galileo support, these automated DGTs are suitable to provide ground support for other low rate missions.



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