A METHODOLOGY FOR COMPARING THE OPERATIONAL AND OPERATIONS DEVELOPMENT COSTS.

COST EFFICIENT OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

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A set of 13 Mission Operations functions was presented and discussed at the OPSS Symposium in Greenbelt, Maryland. These functions have been used as the basis of a work breakdown structure (WBS) to compare missions across NASA within the robotics mission set. Even when missions do not have an identical WBS, with some minimum effort, a translation algorithm can be generated from the project WBS to this standard set. The definitions of the 13 functions are in terms that both developers and operators of missions can easily relate to.

This paper will define the 13 functions and give examples of how they have been used to compare different missions. The examples will discuss actual operations staffing data and show how different mission characteristics can be seen in the data.

The methodology if used by centers and agencies, would permit the comparison of operations costs across the agencies enabling a clear indication of whether new design concept’s and/or approaches reduce the life cycle cost of missions. This methodology is particularly effective in comparing different design options for the same mission.