Session 18: Current and Future Use of NASA's Deep Space Network

Chair: Mr. David Morris
JPL

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The "Mars Overload" of the DSN Resources in 2003-4
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The JPL RAPSO is chartered to divide the limited amount of tracking hours amongst the various missions in as equitable allotment as can be achieved. This paper introduces the concept saturation of the DSN assets as a growing number of missions are continually added. This is compounded by the fact that many of the additional missions are going to the same location/part of the sky, and are therefore directly competing head to head for the same tracking passes at a time when each mission is conducting important activities.