



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **TOP HONORS TO BE PRESENTED AT SPACEOPS 2008 CONFERENCE IN HEIDELBERG**

April 28, 2008 – Reston, Va. – The International Committee on Technical Interchange for Space Mission Operations and Ground Data Systems (SpaceOps Organization, also known as the SpaceOps Committee) is pleased to announce that the following awards will be presented during the SpaceOps 2008 Conference, taking place May 12-16 at The Heidelberg Convention Centre in Heidelberg, Germany.

The **Ulysses Mission Operations Team** will receive the 2008 **International SpaceOps Award for Outstanding Achievement**, which is presented for outstanding efforts in overcoming space operations and/or support challenges, and recognizes those teams or individuals whose exceptional contributions were critical to the success of a space mission. A trophy and certificate of citation will be presented to recognize the Ulysses Mission Operations Team for its outstanding contributions to the success, scientific productivity, and longevity of the joint ESA-NASA Ulysses Mission to the poles of the sun.

Three **International Space Ops Distinguished Service Medals** will also be presented. The medal is presented to give unique recognition to an individual member of the international space operations community who has distinguished himself or herself with service to the SpaceOps organization or to the field of space operations and support. The honorees are:

- **Robert K. Wilson**, Spitzer Space Telescope project manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, who will be recognized for outstanding dedication, leadership, operational excellence, innovation, and sustained technical performance, significantly contributing to the success of NASA Astronomy Physics, Planetary and Earth Observing missions and the Spitzer Space Telescope.
- **John C. Rodgers**, manager at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., who will be recognized for his service as one of the founding members of the SpaceOps Organization, his dedication to SpaceOps activities since its formation in 1992, and his unwavering support by representing NASA in the newly-formed Organization.
- **Herwig Laue**, section manager at ESA-ESOC, who will be recognized for over five years of dedicated service as acting SpaceOps Co-Chair, including his role in organizing the 1996 SpaceOps Symposium – in excellent cooperation with DLR, the German Aerospace Center – which featured the first “on-line” paper collection system, the first CD publication of the proceedings, and numerous other innovations.

The International Committee on Technical Interchange for Space Mission Operations and Ground Data Systems (SpaceOps Organization, also known as the SpaceOps Committee) is a spacecraft operations oriented international association consisting of representatives from most of the space-faring nations.

The SpaceOps Conference, a technical forum of space operations community held biennially since 1990, addresses state-of-the-art operations principles, methods, and tools. The event attracts technologists, scientists, managers, and experts from space agencies, industry, and academia. SpaceOps 2008 is hosted and organized by ESA and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), in association with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).

SpaceOps fosters managerial and technical interchange on all aspects of space mission operations, including robotics, human, earth orbiting, and deep space. For more information, visit <http://www.space-ops.org>

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