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TOP HONORS TO BE PRESENTED AT SPACEOPS 2012 CONFERENCE IN STOCKHOLM

March 23, 2012 – Reston, Va. – The International Committee on Technical Interchange for Space Mission Operations and Ground Data Systems (the SpaceOps Organization) will present several prominent awards at the SpaceOps 2012 Conference, taking place 11–15 June in Stockholm, Sweden.

The **Hayabusa Operations Team, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency** will receive the 2012 **International SpaceOps Award for Outstanding Achievement**, which is presented for outstanding efforts in overcoming space operations and/or support challenges, and recognizes those teams whose exceptional contributions were critical to the success of one or more space missions. A trophy and certificate of citation will be presented to recognize the Hayabusa Operations Team that through its excellent collaborative work successfully returned the Explorer to Earth despite difficulties due to equipment failure onboard. Accepting the award will be Dr. Junichiro Kawaguchi, program manager/team lead.

Dr. Sami Asmar, principal scientist, radio science, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, will receive the 2012 **International SpaceOps Exceptional Achievement Medal**, which is presented to give unique recognition to an individual who has distinguished himself in the field of space operations and support and whose exceptional contributions were critical to the success of one or more space missions, or who has made significant contributions to the field of space operations. Dr. Asmar will be recognized for creating a system that has transformed space operations during critical events to acquire information indispensable to the safety and health of costly space exploration missions via Radio Science Systems.

Two **International SpaceOps Distinguished Service Medals** will also be presented. These awards give unique recognition to an individual who has distinguished himself or herself with service to the SpaceOps Organization and who has shown exceptional dedication to the interests of the organization by making significant contributions over an extended period of time. **James Costrell**, NASA (retired), is being recognized for four decades of leadership and service in the International Space Operations community. **Terry D. “Dave” Linick**, program manager, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, is being recognized as the initiator of the SpaceOps Organization in its current form. His activities date back to 1990 with continuous service in various functions and on SpaceOps committees since then.

The SpaceOps Organization 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. The space technology and service provider SSC and the German Aerospace Center DLR will combine their expertise to organize and host SpaceOps 2012, 11–15 June in Stockholm, in association with Congrex and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. For more information about this event, visit www.spaceops2012.org.

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 www.spaceops.org.

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