

2012: Last Year's Poll Results Analysis

The following summary presents the results of the four polls posted in the "The Journal of Space Operations & Communicator" during 2012.

The author found it interesting to combine the results into a scenario expressing the admittedly "non-representative" results of the SpaceOps community tendencies.

The four polls were posted duly in the four quarterly issues of "The Journal".

Poll-15 (Jan. 2012): ISS Utilization

There have been well articulated pro's and con's for either approach: Use fuel depots at the ISS to augment the reach of currently available launch vehicles or create a heavy lift rocket (SLS) without knowing its exact destination. Would you rather: (a) See the in-orbit refueling capabilities developed, (b) continue with the SLS, (c) see a combination of both under the aspect "pay as you go, (d) have a firm exploration target defined and develop the lift capability accordingly?

40% voted for options (a) and (d), 20% for "pay as you go"

Comment: Infrastructure is a critical component needed to drive down the cost of access to space..

Poll-16 (April 2012): Moon Base

Which Nation will operate the first human tended moon base?

America, China, Europe, Japan, Russia or a combination?

The votes turned out: America (22.2%), China (44.5%), Europe (0%), Japan (0%), Russia (22.2%) or a combination of nations (22.2%) .

Quotation: "Put the money into furthering progress rather than having to clean up future unavoidable incidents."

Poll-17 (July 2012): Commercial Space Utilization

With the recent success of Space-X and the gaining importance of the NASA commercial crew development program (CCDev) - who do you think has made the following statement: "Under certain economic conditions, the construction of rockets may even become profitable" ?

Robert H. Goddard, Elon Musk, Herrmann Oberth, Konstantin Tsiolkovsky?

The votes were: Robert H. Goddard and Herrmann Oberth (40% each), Elon Musk (20%)

Quotation: Actually Herrmann Oberth wrote in his book "A Rocket to Planetary Space" already in 1923 (!) as one of his postulations:

"Under certain economic conditions, the construction of such machines (rockets) may even become profitable. Such conditions might arise within a few decades."

Poll-18 (Oct 2012): Smart Phones for Operations

Could you imagine that Smart Phones and their Apps could be introduced to satellite control for more efficient operations? Yes, maybe in the near future, never?

The majority of the votes, 60% voted yes, 20% each for maybe or never..

Comment of one voter: I cannot see these apps being used for satellite control; however, I can envision them used for limit monitoring to warn engineers of non-nominal conditions. Indeed, they are being used for that purpose now.

Many thanks to all the readers of "The Journal of Space Operations & Communicator" and their comments. It was fun to compile this little summary and to look back over the past year. We hope you all will also participate in the future as actively as you have done so far.

