

IAF SPACE SYSTEMS SYMPOSIUM (D1)

Lessons Learned in Space Systems: Achievements, Challenges, Best Practices, Standards. (5)

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LESSONS LEARNED PROCESS ROLE IN FUTURE MISSIONS.

Abstract

Learning can be gained from success as well as failure, and a project success can be carried out to new projects through the knowledge and experience gained from previous projects. Similarly a project failure can give lessons learned that can be implemented in new projects in order to avoid repeating the same mistakes that lead to project failure. Lessons learned process is about capturing what went wrong in a mission and addressing how to eliminate such mistakes in future missions. Also, it involves identifying, documenting, analyzing, storing and retrieving the lessons. By having the lessons learned process in a place within a project based organization, it can make the organization learns from its previous experience. Also, it can give the project managers and teams the chance of learning from others experience and helps the knowledge transfer from different teams within an organization. Lessons learned process plays a significant role in helping organizations learn and improve the performance of its projects. Capturing the lessons learned can be throughout a project lifecycle and not only at the end of a project, because capturing lesson learned is beneficial not only for future projects but also for existing projects. Missing to capture others ideas and previous experience lead to missing an opportunity to success and improve. It is a good idea to keep the lessons learned register available to all the stakeholders of a project on an ongoing basis, encourage them to add their experience which can be summarized up at the end of the project. The result of this register will be a report that can be shared to all stakeholders for future reference. Accordingly, in order to achieve the greatest value of the lessons learned process, it is important for the project managers to make the project team aware of the importance of documenting the positive and the negative experience of a project. Finally, this research paper emphasizes on the advantages of the lessons learned and the impact of strong and weak lessons learned process on future missions, and its means to encourage professions in the project management field to adopt the best practices of the lessons learned. The paper methodology will be qualitative based on literature review and the author's experience in project management field.