



esoc

European Space Operations Centre
Robert-Bosch-Strasse 5
D-64293 Darmstadt
Germany
T +49 (0)6151 900
F +49 (0)6151 90495
www.esa.int

to whom it may concern

Our ref. HSO-O/331MW

Darmstadt, 25/06/2012

Subject: ESA/ESOC Relations with IKI

This letter is furnished in support of the science and administrative inspection of the Space Research Institute during the period from 2007 to 2011 conducted by the Russian Academy of Sciences once in five years.

ESA/ESOC has a professional relation with IKI which dates back to the early 80'ies when indispensable support has been provided to space navigation aspects in the context of ESA's Giotto mission flying-by comet Halley. Thereafter, in the late 80'ies and early 90'ies the relation has been continued in the Solar Terrestrial Science Programme and its Cluster mission, mandating precise orbit determination techniques for a formation flying four spacecraft fleet and associated orbit maintenance aspects. In addition, an exchange of scientific data has been envisaged for Cluster requiring an efficient implementation as regards data type, media and transfer technologies. A complementing Russian spacecraft using a novel solar sailing concept had been envisaged which was jointly discussed in depth. At this time it was also possible to procure Personal Computers and Mainframe Computers by ESA/ESOC and to make them available at IKI Moscow, which constituted a significant achievement considering the related ITAR aspects. In the mid 90's IKI has hosted the RCGSO conference with participants from NASA, ESA, JAXA, ASI, DLR, CNES and helped to make this conference a success in the SpaceOps community. More recently IKI has served as facilitator in other space projects such as Phobos-Grunt and ExoMars despite the responsibility for the conduct of the missions was/is outside their perimeter.

The available expertise at IKI across the various domains not only limited to scientific aspects, and the demonstrated performance to meet agreed international commitments and milestones is to be highlighted. In this context the pragmatic hands-on approach, together with the constructive attitude to make complex undertakings a success has to be emphasized. The dedication of individual staff, able to work efficiently in a large and complex team set-up is an asset.

In conclusion ESA/ESOC rates IKI as authoritative partner in the space science community very high and would be delighted to continue this excellent relationship.

Dr. Manfred Warhaut
ESA Head of Mission Operations

Copy:
Thomas Reiter (D/HSO)
Alavaro Gimenez (D/SRE)
Rene Pischel (ESA Moscow)