

IAA Study Group Status Report

Responsible Commission: III

Study Number and Title: 3.5: Earth-threatening asteroids and comets

Short Study Description

Identify the most significant issues and potential international cooperative measures to deal with the potentially devastating effects of asteroid and comet impacts on Earth. Assess state of understanding of the likelihood of a disaster in years to come. Assess effectiveness of potential countermeasures. Address technical, policy/management, social/psychological, and organizational/management areas for asteroids as well as for comets. Produce a comprehensive report that could, if approved, become an IAA Cosmic Study.

Progress in past six months:

The study group has been fully organized and a leader named for each major chapter in its anticipated report. All leaders are now working to define the content of their study, identify information needed that is not available from previous studies, and plan to obtain that information and produce a report. Three new members have been added, making the total membership now 22 people. There is good representation of non-US nations, making it a truly international group. The organizational process has taken very much longer than anticipated, and progress in the actual study is very slow because it is not possible to put pressure on volunteer researchers who have full time jobs. For that reason I consider the schedule a moving target.

Website Study Information up to date? (Study Group Membership, Study Plan & Schedule):

Yes, except: See new schedule below.

Issues requiring resolution? (recommend approach):

Access to FTP site requires special software and is very cumbersome. I have previously recommended establishment of a simple web site for the purpose of filing and updating progress and status reports instead of an FTP site, but I do not see any progress toward that simplification.

Product Deliveries on Schedule?

No. See new schedule below. Even that schedule is expected to slip for reasons enumerated above.

Membership of each Chapter set	November 2004
Outline of contents of each chapter	December 2004
First cut at Chapter contents	June 2005
Second iteration of Chapter contents	October 2005
Findings and recommendations	November 2005
Final draft of report complete	March 2006

Study Team Member Changes?

Yes. See three new members added, below.

Name of person providing Study Group Status .

Ivan Bekey

Status Report Date: February 27, 2005

Study Team Membership Changes

Effectivity Date: February 27, 2005

Discontinue:

None

Add:

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