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:

Name: Liara Covert
Current email address: liarac@yahoo.com
Tel. (506) 847-0219
Fax (506) 658-6825
Mailing address: 20 Horton Road, Rothesay, New brunswick E2H 1P8 Canada

Name: Evan Seamone
Current email address: eseamone@yahoo.com
Tel. (337) 531-2779 (w); (337) 537-5566 (h)
Fax (337) 531-2707
Mailing address: 6903 F Ellis Court
Fort Polk, Louisiana 71459, USA

Name: Richard Tremayne-Smith
Current email address: richard.tremayne-smith@bncs.gsi.gov.uk
Tel. 44 (0) 20 7215 0821
Fax 44 (0) 20 7821 5387
Mailing address: British National Space Centre
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SS