

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Can 24 Best-Paid Consultants Help Your Mission?

Several business books make the New York Times best-seller list every year. The books are usually authored by famous business consultants who charge exorbitant hourly consulting fees to “fix” both large and small pharmaceutical, automotive, aerospace, computer, internet sales and big league franchise corporations. Each of these books promotes a new way of managing companies out of financial troubles and into profitability. The new management methods are based on these consultants’ years of experience, wisdom and lessons learned. They usually promote a specific “cure all” paradigm and illustrate it with a wealth of case studies from the consultants’ careers.

No experienced manager can ever believe that there is a panacea for solving space mission challenges but selectively used, these books contain a wealth of wisdom that NASA managers can apply to improve one of their greatest challenges: estimate costs accurately and then control them.

Can the wisdom of Starbucks really help you with a startracker? Does the cost of iPod have anything to do with the cost of ion propulsion? The author ventured that it could and applied the wisdom learned in these 24 books to his space experiment projects. Based on specific examples the presentation will discuss how management principles from for-profit industry can benefit NASA management of space missions.

Arthur B. Chmielewski
Project Manager
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

In his 29-year career with JPL Mr. Chmielewski has participated in more than a dozen space missions including Galileo, Ulysses, Cassini and DS-1. Recently he was the Project Manager for two New Millennium Program missions ST6 and ST8 to which he applied the principles discussed in this presentation.

Charles Garner
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Biography coming soon.