

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Cassini-Huygens – Organizing and Running a Multifaceted Mission

This presentation will discuss the complexity of the Cassini-Huygens mission and the technical and organizational challenges it has faced. The audience will hear about what has gone well, some things that didn't, and how a large team of managers, scientists and engineers from around the world joined together to make the mission a tremendous success. The Cassini spacecraft, with 12 science instruments and an equal number of spacecraft teams and subsystems is one of the largest, most complex spacecraft ever flown in deep space. The voyage to Saturn was an odyssey itself, and the mission in orbit has had many goals, targets and obstacles. The Huygen's probe, which had another six science instruments and around eight probe teams and subsystems, was carried by Cassini to the Saturn system, and deployed to Titan, the largest moon of Saturn.

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Mr. Fletcher is a Program Manager in the Space Science and Engineering division at the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI). He is responsible for managing programs with NASA and other customers, and new business development. Mr. Fletcher's current roles include managing the Cassini Ion and Neutral Mass Spectrometer (INMS), managing instrument development in the Center for Excellence in Analytical Mass Spectrometry (CEAMS), and managing spaceflight programs for non-NASA government agencies.

Previous to this position Mr. Fletcher was Program Manager and Sr. Research Scientist in the Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Space Sciences (AOSS) department at the University of Michigan where he managed instrument development, operations, and data analysis programs.

Mr. Fletcher has worked on many NASA missions that span several NASA centers, such as UARS, ERBE, NIMBUS 7, CERES, Galileo, Cassini, New Horizons, Juno and MMS.