

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Connect the Dots

With the goal of providing the highest probability of success to NASA programs and projects, the Independent Program Assessment Office (IPAO) conducts multi-disciplinary reviews at designated Key Decision Point (KDP) milestones to evaluate program and project objectives, cost and schedule compliance with NPR 7120.5. This presentation provides an overview of the independent review process, the Agency governance structure, and Standing Review Boards (SRB). In particular, this presentation provides a summary review of recent improvements in the SRB engagement timeline approved by the Agency Program Management Council (APMC). These are reflected in revisions of 7120.5, as well as the IPAO SRB Handbook and Terms of Reference (TOR) documents. Alignment with Agency-level needs, goals, and objectives, and the adequacy of the requirements flow-down from those are discussed.

Dr. James Ortiz

*Director of Independent Program Assessment Office
NASA Headquarters*

Dr. James Ortiz is the Director of the Independent Program Assessment Office (IPAO), within the Office of Program Assessment and Evaluation, NASA Headquarters. The IPAO, located at Langley Research Center (LaRC), is responsible for evaluating the Agency's Program's and project's cost, schedule, management and technical content at key decision points in the life-cycle to ensure that they are on a path to mission success and to inform the decision authorities of the Program or project readiness to proceed at each of the Agency's key decision points. Dr. Ortiz joined NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC) in July 1990 from the U.S. Air Force where he served as flight test engineer for electronic warfare systems on high performance aircraft from the U.S. Air Force, Navy, and the Canadian and German Air Forces. In 1988 - 1990, he was the lead flight test engineer on the F-15 E fighter aircraft leading to its initial operational capability and deployment to Desert Storm. During his career at NASA, Dr. Ortiz has held several assignments including section head for International Space Station (ISS) systems training in the Mission Operations Directorate (MOD) from 1992-1995; senior NASA research exchange engineer with the air force research laboratory from 1996-1998; chief of the advanced projects office in MOD from 1998-1999; chief engineer for project evaluation and then manager of the JSC Systems Management Office in the Office of the JSC Chief Engineer from 1999-2006. In 2007, he was named manager of the JSC Office of Analysis and Assessment reporting to the JSC Center Director. He later served as deputy manager for Integrated Avionics and Software for the Orion project. He has also held special assignments as the focal point for the design certification of the shuttle fleet for return to flight after the Columbia accident in 2004 and as senior technical analyst in the Office of Program Assessment and Evaluation at NASA Headquarters in 2006. Ortiz was a member of the NASA team that wrote NPR 7120.5D in 2006-2007.