

# Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS): Standards Development and Infusion

Stephen A. Townes

Chair & General Secretary, CCSDS

Committee Manager, ISO/TC 20/SC 13 (Space data and information transfer systems)

Chief Technologist, Interplanetary Network Directorate

NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory

California Institute of Technology

[stephen.a.townes@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:stephen.a.townes@jpl.nasa.gov)

© 2019 California Institute of Technology. Government sponsorship acknowledged.



- Founded in 1982 by the major space agencies of the world, the CCSDS is a multi-national forum for the development of communications and data systems standards for spaceflight.
- ISO “duality” relationship began in 1990
- Today, leading space communications experts from 27 nations collaborate in developing the most well-engineered space communications and data handling standards in the world.
- *The goal is to enhance governmental and commercial interoperability and cross-support, while also reducing risk, development time and project costs.*
- More than 900 space missions have chosen to fly with CCSDS-developed standards, and the number continues to grow.

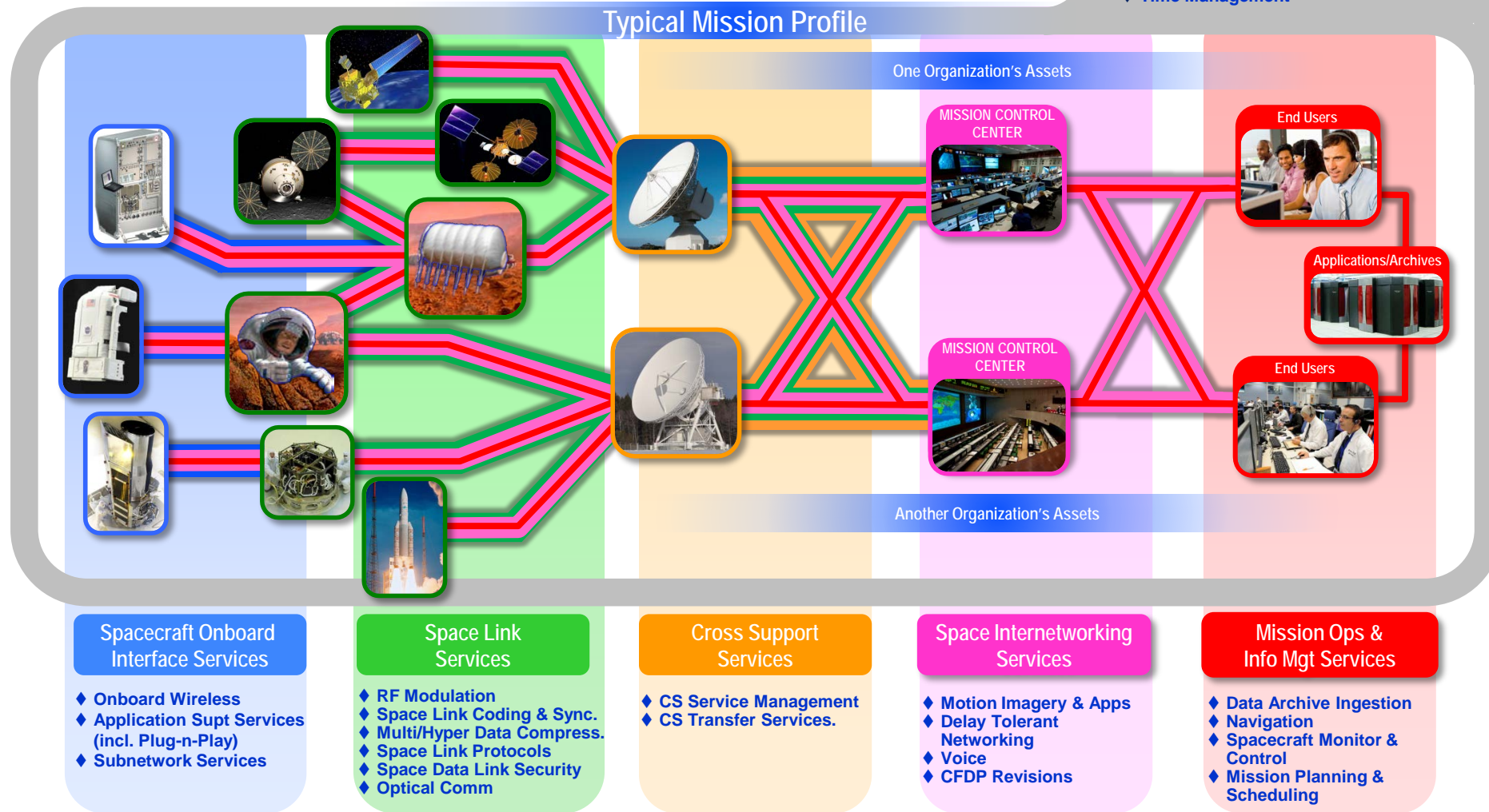
# CCSDS Overview End-to-End Architecture

## Six Technical Areas, Twenty-Three Teams

- ◆ Working Group (producing standards)
- ◆ Birds-Of-a-Feather stage (pre-approval)
- ◆ Special Interest Group (integration forum)

### Systems Engineering

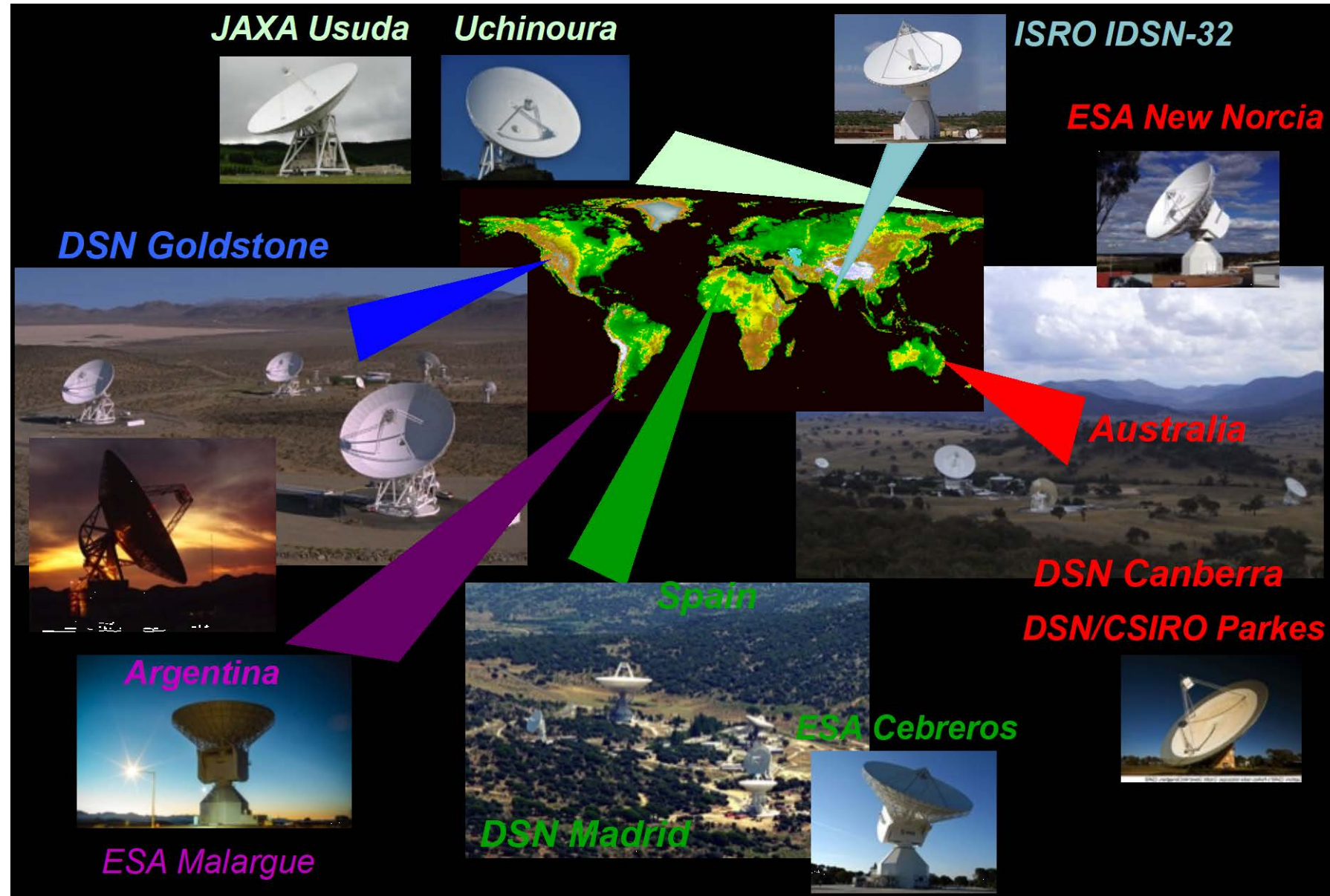
- ◆ Systems Architecture
- ◆ Security
- ◆ Delta-DOR
- ◆ Time Management





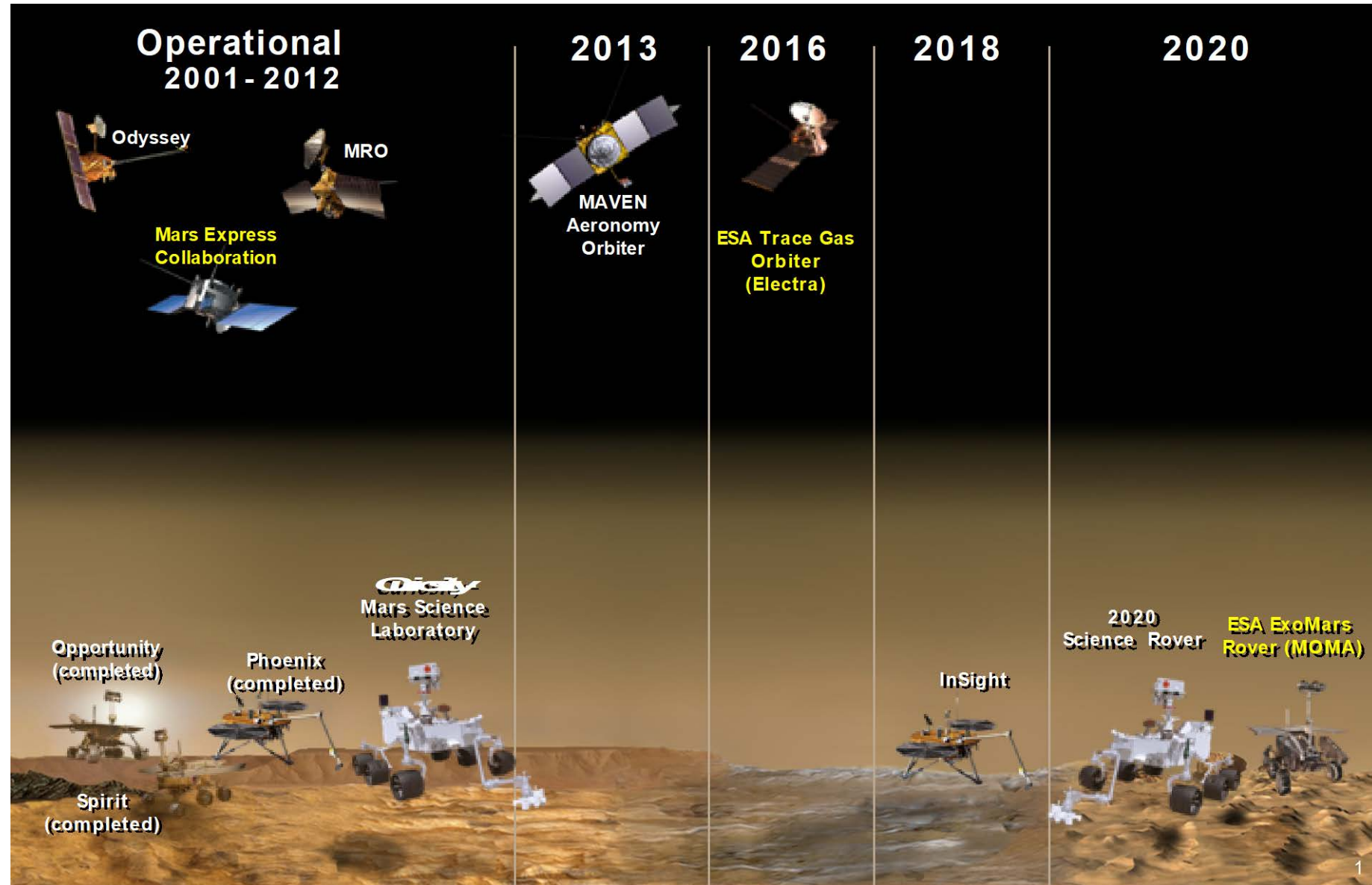
# Cross-Support—A Standards-Based Global Coalition

- We used to have distinct ground equipment to support each mission—made cross-support and redundancy a problem
- Standards now allow each Agency’s ground stations to easily support missions from other Agencies
- Allows “newcomers” to integrate quickly
- Increases global coverage and redundancy



# Mars Relays—The Beginning of the Solar System Internet

- Almost all data brought back from Mars these days comes to Earth via relays orbiting Mars
- Use of standards allows relays from multiple Agencies to communicate with rovers from multiple Agencies
- Interoperability moving beyond comm to mission ops and spacecraft onboard interfaces





# Final Thoughts

- Standards must evolve to keep pace with technological innovation and new use cases
- Must be an efficient process—can't take too long to develop
- Chicken & Egg—when is the right time to standardize?
- How to coordinate industry standards activities with CCSDS & vice versa?
  - Adopt & adapt commercial standards as appropriate for our operating environment (e.g., 802.11 in space)
  - IETF & CCSDS and DTN
  - Object Management Group relationship
- Good for both users and providers
  - Users have a choice—can negotiate for best price, best coverage, etc.
  - Providers can compete for a larger market with easy transitions
- Infusion, infusion, infusion

