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Mark Craig

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50 years of technical, program management, institutional, strategy, policy, and public engagement contributions to space exploration. Especially skilled at addressing the big picture, unraveling complex issues, and listening.

2016 - Present

Pro Bono Mentor and Advisor

Recent engagements include the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, Space Angels, the International MoonBase Summit, the Mars Affordability & Sustainability Workshops, the Global Exploration Roadmap (GER), and the International Space Medicine Summit

1997 - Present

Space Themed Attraction Consultant

Self employed

As space exploration expert, works with creative team for clients that have included Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry and the NASA Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex's Shuttle Launch Experience attraction and Space Shuttle Atlantis Exhibit.

2005 - 2015

NASA Account Manager

SAIC

Worked to increase NASA human space exploration's value to the Nation and sustainability by helping to shape and then socialize the bi-partisan NASA Authorization Act of 2010 and its mandated National Academies study.

2005 - 2007

President

American Astronautical Society (AAS)

VP Technical (2002-2003); Executive VP (2003-2005).

2002 - 2005

Associate Center Director, Space Development and Commerce

NASA Johnson Space Center

For NASA HQ led integration of the Agency Strategic Roadmaps and development of the Space Shuttle Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) investment plan.

1995 - 2002

Deputy Center Director then Center Director (Acting)

NASA Stennis Space Center

Oversaw expansion of SSC's rocket test capability from 1 customer on 3 test positions to 18 customers on 12 test positions, with transformed business and customer processes; founding Chairman of the National Rocket Propulsion Test Alliance with the DoD; on KSC Firing Room console, member of the Space Shuttle Launch Mission Management Team.

1993 - 1995

Architect, NASA Strategic Plan

NASA Headquarters

Creator of the Strategic Enterprise concept to focus on external customers and the Human Exploration and Development of Space (HEDS) Enterprise; architect of the HEDS strategy.

1991 - 1993

Manager, Space Station Technical Projects

NASA Johnson Space Center

Led assessment of JSC program control capability; served on Administrator's "Red Teams" for assessing NASA strategy, human spaceflight programs, and NASA Center roles and missions.

1989 - 1991

Assistant Administrator, Exploration (Acting)

NASA Headquarters

Led NASA's planning and research in response to the Space Exploration Initiative (SEI); served as NASA's SEI liaison with the National Space Council (NSC) and its Synthesis Group; led NASA's SEI coordination with the DoD, DoE, NSF, and NIH; created initial draft of the NSC's multi-agency SEI policy.

1987 - 1990

Manager, Lunar and Mars Exploration Program

NASA Johnson Space Center

Led development of NASA's integrated strategy for exploration of the Moon and Mars and for enabling research, technology, and infrastructure; led NASA technical support to White House staff in developing the Space Exploration Initiative (SEI).

1987 - 1989

Deputy Manager, Mars Rover Sample Return Project

NASA Johnson Space Center

Led JSC concept development, technology, and science efforts for the JPL project manager.

Experience

1985 - 1987

Asst. Manager then Manager (Acting), Space Station Program Systems Engineering & Integration

NASA Johnson Space Center

Engineering representative in partnership negotiations with Europe, Japan and Canada; led SE&I of the integrated Space Station system, including international partners; chaired the Space Station Systems Integration Board.

1983 - 1984

Team Lead, Space Station Task Force Concept Development Group

NASA Headquarters

Led a multi-Center and contractor team exploring Space Station configuration options.

1976 - 1983

Integration Manager, Space Shuttle Solid Rocket Booster Staging System

NASA Johnson Space Center

Led the DDT&E of the integrated Space Shuttle SRB staging system.

1971 - 1984

Aerospace Engineer

NASA Johnson Space Center

Developed/executed Space Shuttle vehicle sizing math model for Phase B studies; performed Apollo-Soyuz docking dynamics simulations; led math modelling and a test campaign of Space Shuttle large amplitude propellant dynamics; led the Space Shuttle flight debris inspection "Red Team."

1967- 1971

Co-op Student

NASA Manned Spacecraft Center

Developed/executed Space Shuttle vehicle sizing math model for Phase A studies.

Education

1992

Program for Senior Executives

MIT Sloan School of Management

1974 - 1983

Engineering Graduate Study

Rice University

1971

B.S. in Astronautical Engineering

Purdue University

Recognition

Rotary National Award for Space Achievement Stellar Award (2016)

Flag flown over U.S. Capitol to honor Mark's career (2015)
Flown at the request of Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III of MA

World Space Week Pioneer Award (2008)

Fellow, American Astronautical Society (2006)

NASA Distinguished Service Medal (2005)

Distinguished Engineering Alumnus, Purdue (2002)

Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award (1994, 1999)

Elected to International Academy of Astronautics (1992)

Federal Engineer of the Year Award (1991)
Presented by the National Society of Professional Engineers

NASA Exceptional Service Medal (1981, 1990)