



Massachusetts Institute of Technology Center for Space Research

Coral Reef Mission

Ref. 43-01101.06
July 8, 2002

Monthly Progress Report June 2002

The spacecraft Evaluation Team met on Thursday, June 27 to review proposals received from Alcatel Space, Astrium GmbH, Draper Laboratories, and SpaceDev. (After some consideration Ball Aerospace and Spectrum Astro declined to participate.) It was the Team's unanimous opinion that Astrium should be accepted as our partner in this venture.

Astrium is a European aerospace company with interests in Space Science, Earth Observation, Telecommunications, Navigation, Space Infrastructure, and Launch Vehicles. In FY2000 they had approximately \$1.9B in revenues, which tied them with TRW for third place in the world's space industries (led by Boeing and Lockheed). Astrium has approximately 9400 employees in divisions located in France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Spain. The group with whom we will be working is located in Friedrichshafen, Germany.

The people who wrote this proposal have recently completed the dual bus GRACE mission for JPL (Earth gravity field mapping) and will be working on TerraSAR-X for DLR (Earth imaging high spatial/thematic resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar). In fact, we were able to get a very favorable price from Astrium just because of the similarities of the TerraSAR-X and Coral Reef busses and launch requirements.

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