

Dr. Mehran Sarkarati is currently heading the Ground Stations Engineering Division in the Ground Segment Engineering and Innovation Department at the European Space Operations Centre (ESOC) of the European Space Agency. He joined the Agency in 2004 and has been active in the standardisation community since 2008. Mehran is the standardisation manager for the directorate of Operations at ESA and the co-chair of ESA board for software standardisation. Throughout his career Mehran has acted as member and chairman of several European and International standardisation working groups in the European Consultative Committee for Standardisation (ECSS) and in CCSDS. Within CCSDS Mehran's work has been focused on the Mission Operations and Information Management (MOIMS) area. Mehran has been for more than a decade a key member, deputy chair and since 2021 the chairman of the Spacecraft Monitoring and Control working group (SM&C) and the lead for several key standards. As the chairman of the SM&C WG, Mehran has led the recent strategic transformation efforts of the working group towards simplified and focused standards for existing ground-to-ground mission operation interfaces, to foster wider mission adoption. Mehran has been the driving force behind the creation of the Mission Planning and Scheduling working group, which he chaired from its initiation as a BOF until 2021 and has led the production of the respective concept and specification books. He has also been a member of the Telerobotic working group and contributed significantly to the publication of its concept book. Mehran has a profound and cross-cutting understanding of the MOIMS area, through his direct involvement as a key player in three working groups within this area.

Having worked closely with other working groups across all CCSDS areas, Mehran has gained over the years substantial understanding of the overall CCSDS standards and protocol stacks. The numerous joint meetings with the Data Archive Interoperability, Navigation, System Architecture, Delay Tolerant Networking, Cross-Support Services and SOIS working groups have contributed to this end and have helped in cross-fertilisation and coordination with the CCSDS areas.

In his position as the head of the Robotics and Applications Data Systems Section, Mehran and his team led the implementation on the ground and onboard the spacecraft and in-orbit validation of multiple CCSDS standards as part of the ESA OPSSAT mission and in the context of the METERON experiment onboard the International Space Station (ISS) as well as for IOAG and in multi-agency demonstrator projects with NASA, CNES and DLR. Implemented and validated standards include Mission Operation standards stack and Monitoring and Control (M&C) services, Mission Planning prototype services, DTN Bundel Protocol and CFDP File Delivery Protocol.

Mehran's team in the Ground Stations Engineering division lead within ESA the implementation of multiple standards of the Space Link Services and Cross Support Services for the ESA tracking network ESTRACK.

Since he received his PhD in aerospace engineering for his work on a generic science operation planning concept for planetary missions, he has been actively publishing CCSDS-related papers and articles in conferences and journals to widen the impact of CCSDS in the space community.