

ECSS: Friend or Foe?

ECSS from Space to Ground

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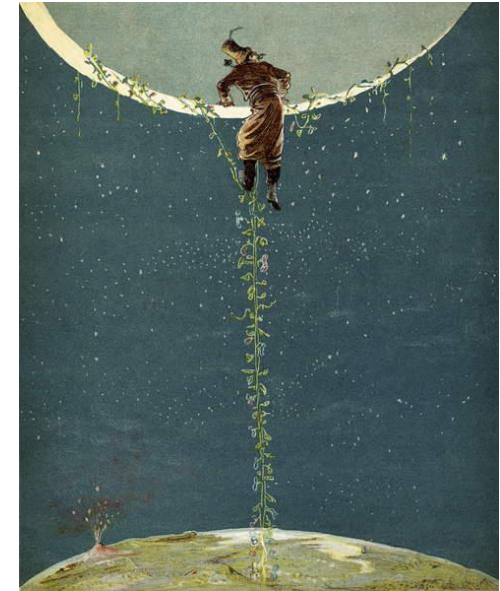


What's in here



An overview of ECSS

Bridging Space to Ground



A possible Way Forward



ECSS What...

- The European Cooperation for Space Standardization is an initiative established to develop a coherent, single set of user-friendly standards for use in all European space activities.
- Standards state what has to be done, not how (e.g. they do not tell you the coding standard to use).
- ECSS applies to space projects, either from ESA or any Space Agency, and also to space-related research projects. It does not apply, **in principle**, to not-space projects

... and Why?

- There were ESA standards before (i.e. PSS):
- Software had a well-developed set of standards, with its renown (?) PSS-05-0.
- But these standards were not coordinated: Different concepts, approaches and terminology.
- There were also different standards in place (CNES, DLR, etc.).
- A standard was needed for the total system:
- Homogeneity was sought across Space Organizations (Agencies, Industry). How? Seeking compliance with internationally recognized standards (e.g. ISO/IEC 12207 for software).

How is ECSS organized?

ECSS has four major Branches (or Series):

- ECSS-M: Space Project Management
 - Policy and principles to provide a uniform approach to a number of generic, managerial disciplines.
- ECSS-E: Space Engineering
 - Policy and principles addressing a broad range of key Space engineering disciplines.
- ECSS-Q: Space Product Assurance
 - Policy and general principles (QA, Safety, and RAM), and specific disciplines (SW, materials, etc.).
- ECSS-U: Space Sustainability
 - Policy and principles governing planetary and space protection.

ECSS document types

- There are three types of ECSS documents:
- Standards (ST)
- Handbooks (HB)
- Technical Memoranda (TM)

ECSS Handbooks

- The Handbooks are non-normative documents. They provide background information, orientation, advice, or recommendations:
 - Advice on how to do something, and useful information about a subject.
 - Related to one specific discipline, technique, technology, process, or activity.
 - Contain the best knowledge and practices on the subject.
 - They do not contain requirements. They are usually considered reference documents.
 - However, a Customer may transform them to normative (on project basis).
- E.g.
 - ECSS-E-HB-32-26A: Spacecraft mechanical loads analysis handbook
 - ECSS-E-HB-40A: Software engineering handbook

Handbook example

5.2.5 System requirement review

5.2.5.1 Relationship between software SRR and system SRR

Since system process and software process share the same review names, there is commonly confusion between them. In order to remove ambiguities in the frame of the software project, the review name could be systematically prefixed with “System” for system level reviews and with “Software” for software level reviews.

5.2.5.2 Software requirement reviews

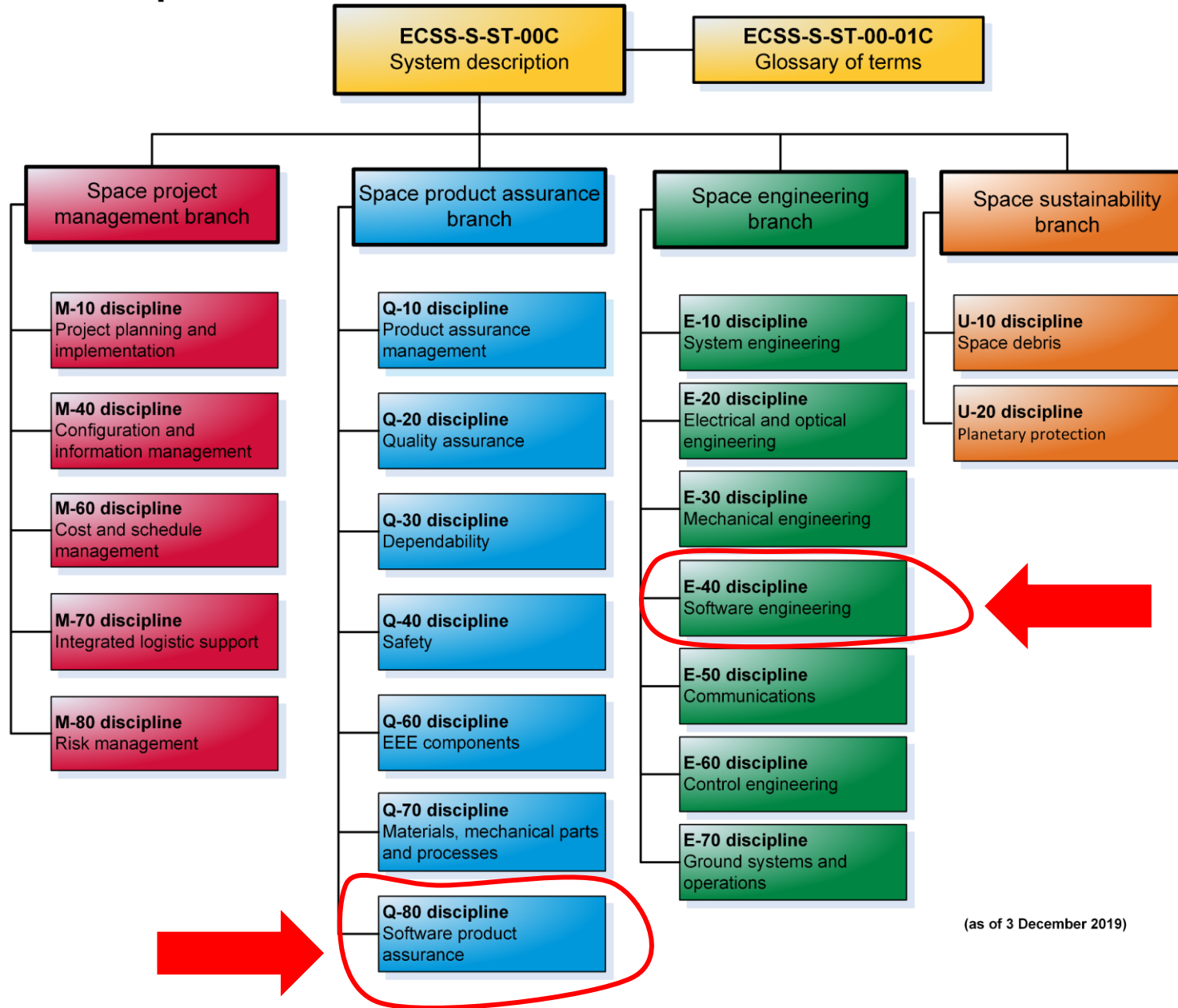
According to the recursive customer-supplier model of ECSS, at each level, the customer is responsible for the delivery of a system in which the developed software is integrated. According to the recursive system-subsystem model of ECSS-E-ST-10C, he is responsible for the specification of the system requirements at lower level and, in particular, for any software comprised in the system.

The system level technical requirement specification for the software subsystem (system TS for software) in ECSS-E-ST-10C standard is the requirement baseline in the ECSS-E-ST-40C standard. The ECSS-E-ST-40C activity “evaluation of system baseline” verifies that the specific software activities at system level described in clause 5.2 are actually taken into account. This is formalized at the software SRR, the software being viewed now as a (lower-level) system. When it refers to SRR, the ECSS-E-ST-40C always refers to the Software SRR.

ECSS Technical Memoranda

- ECSS Technical Memoranda:
 - Provide useful information on a specific subject.
 - May be broader in scope than Handbooks.
 - Are prepared to record and present non-normative data that are:
 - Not relevant
 - or
 - Not yet mature for being published as Standard or Handbook.
- TM's can't be transformed into normative.

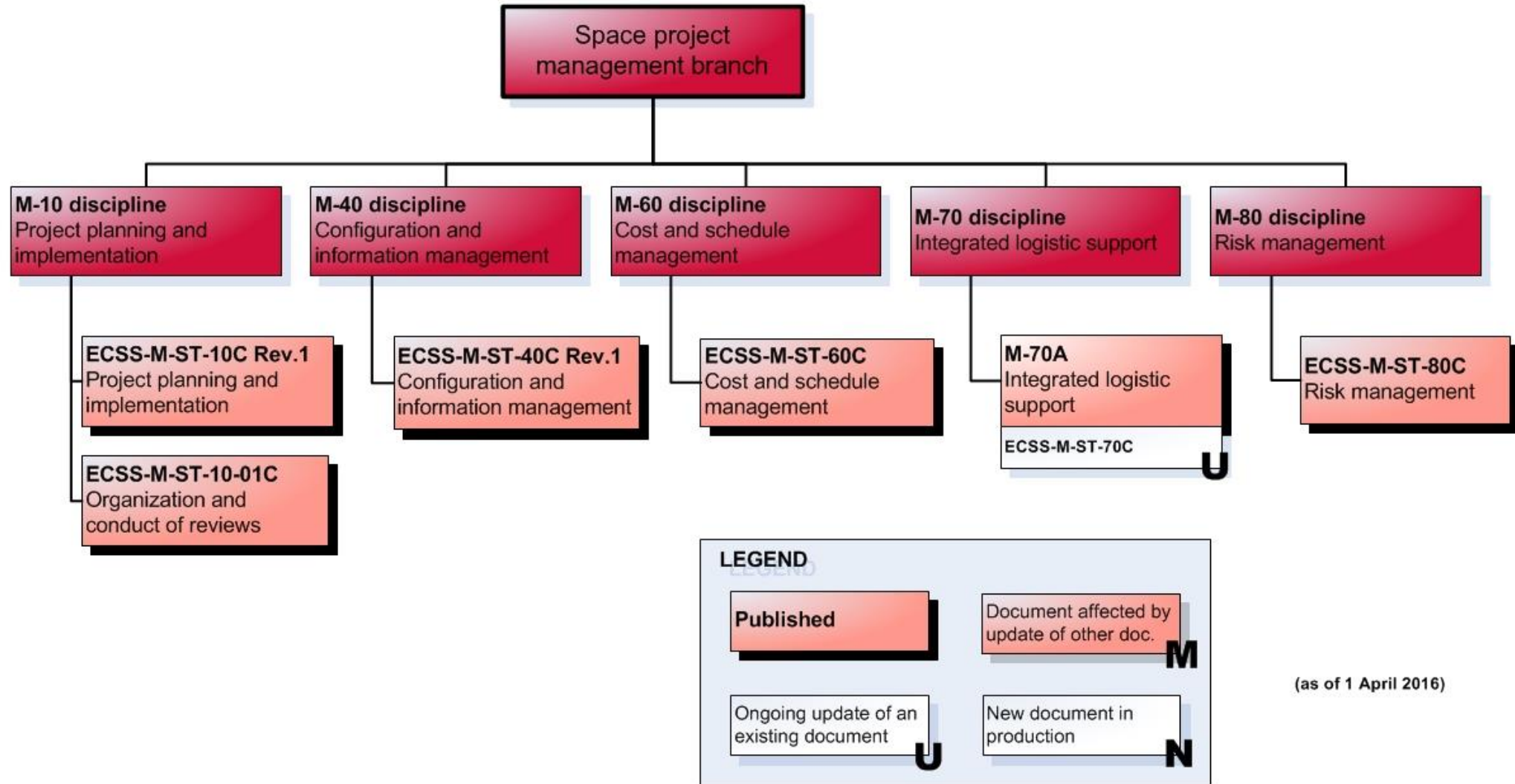
ECSS Disciplines



(as of 3 December 2019)

ECSS Standards

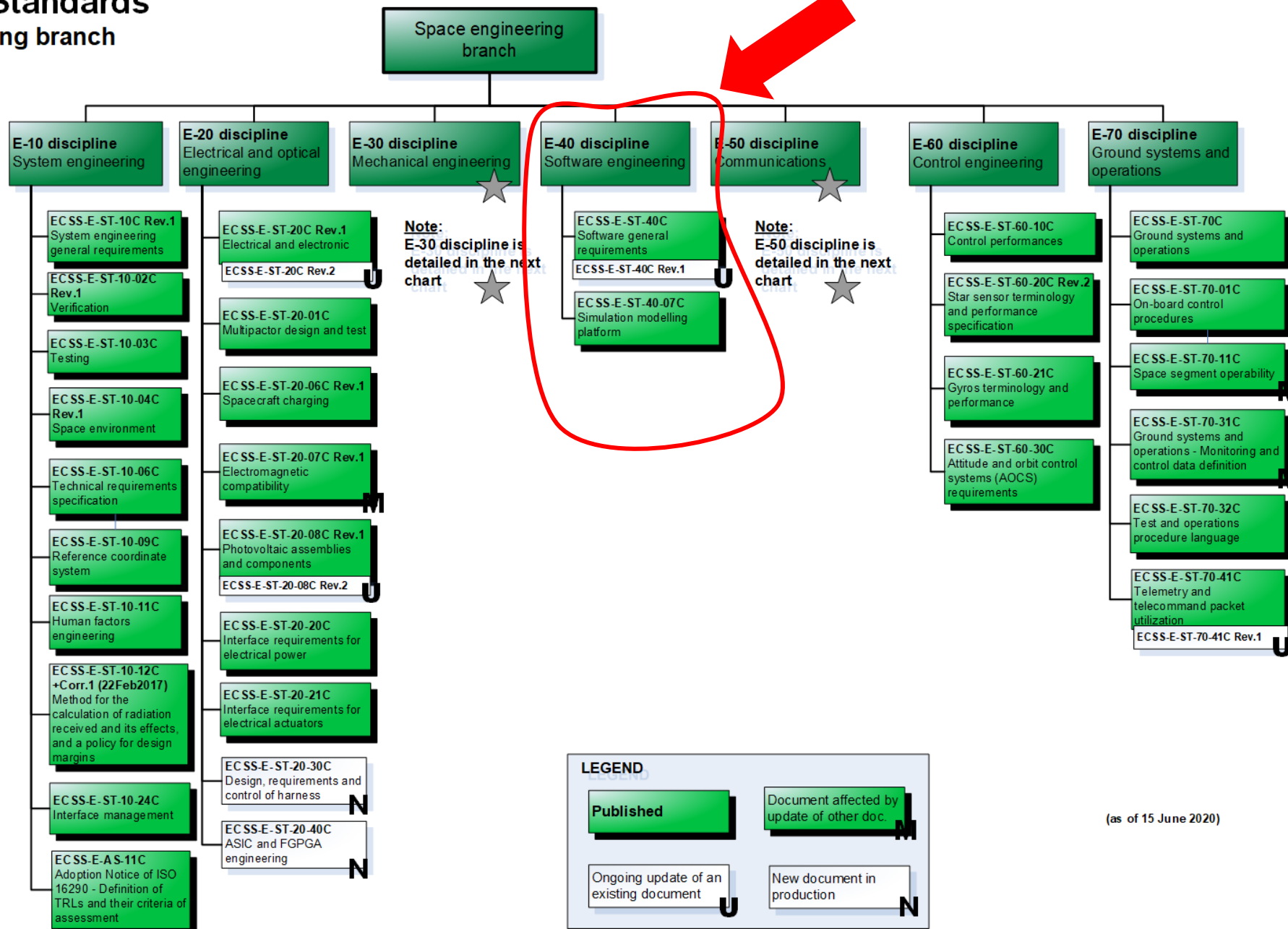
Management branch



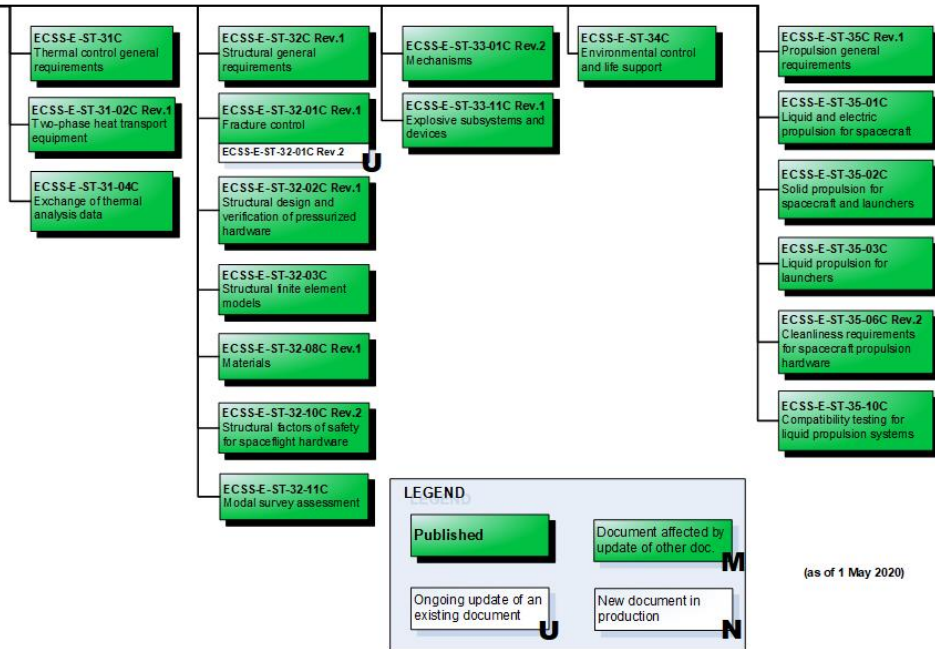
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ECSS Standards

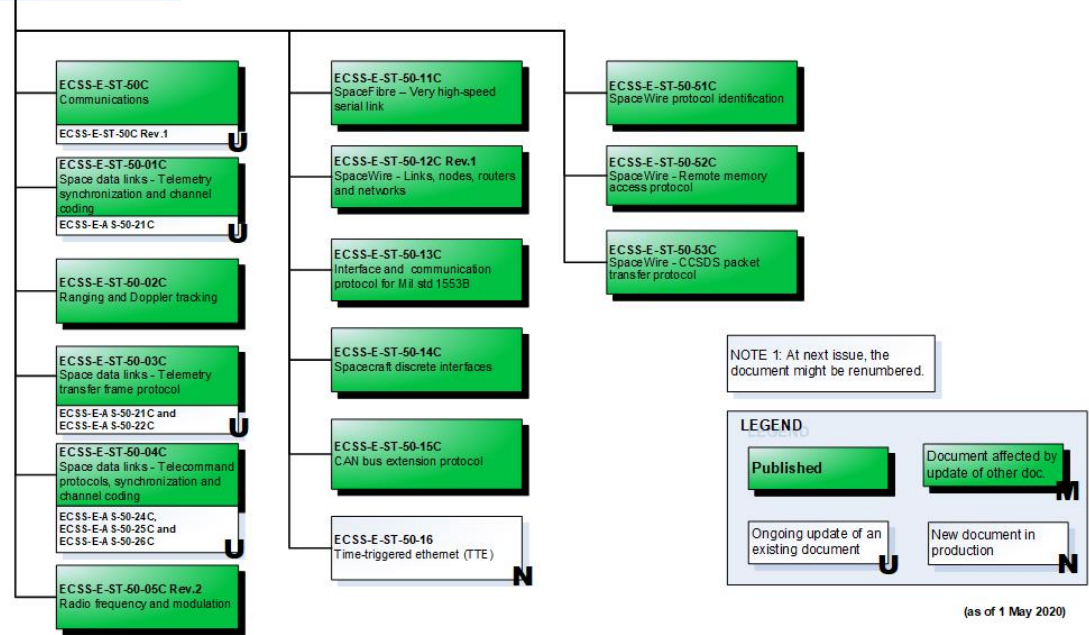
Engineering branch



E-30 discipline
Mechanical engineering

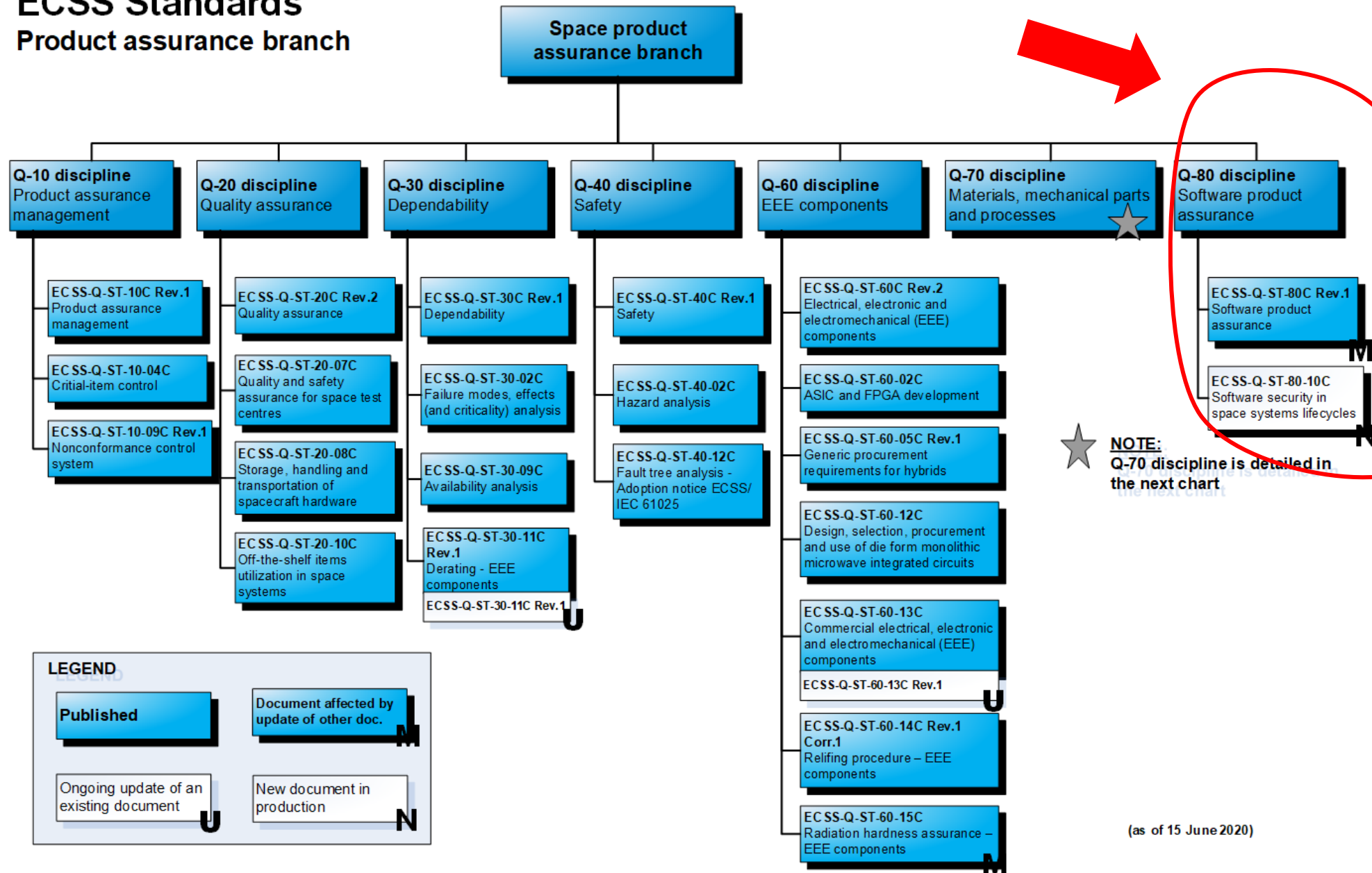


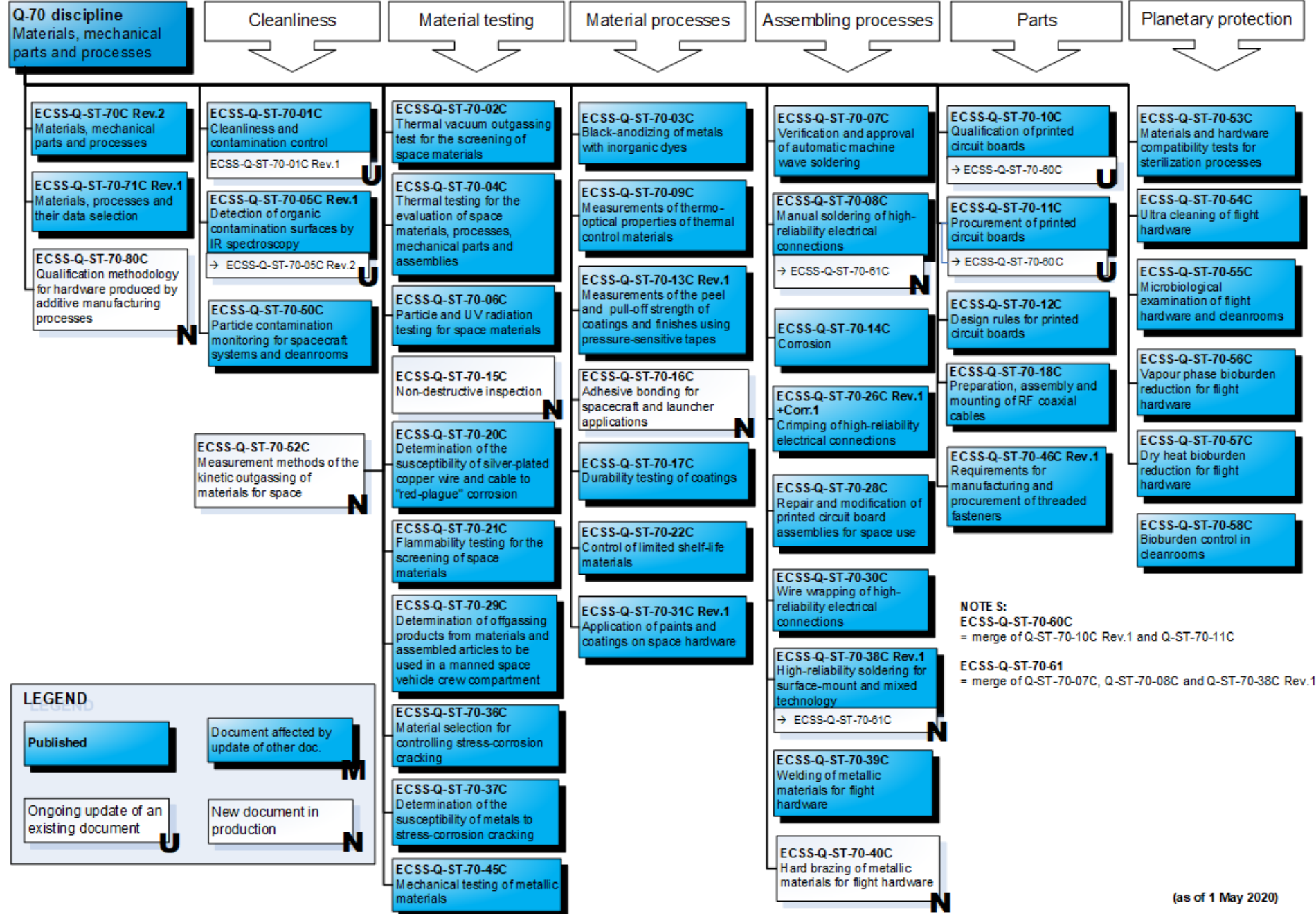
E-50 discipline
Communications



ECSS Standards

Product assurance branch

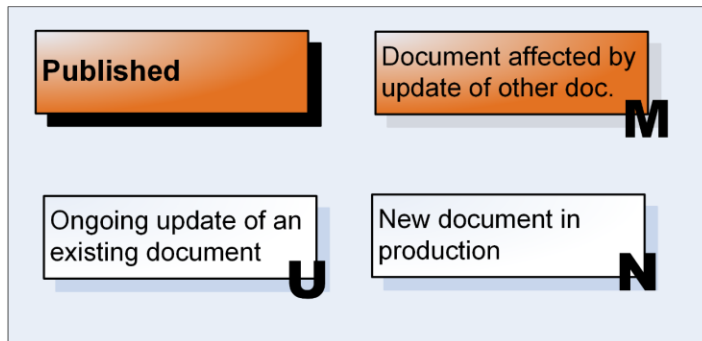
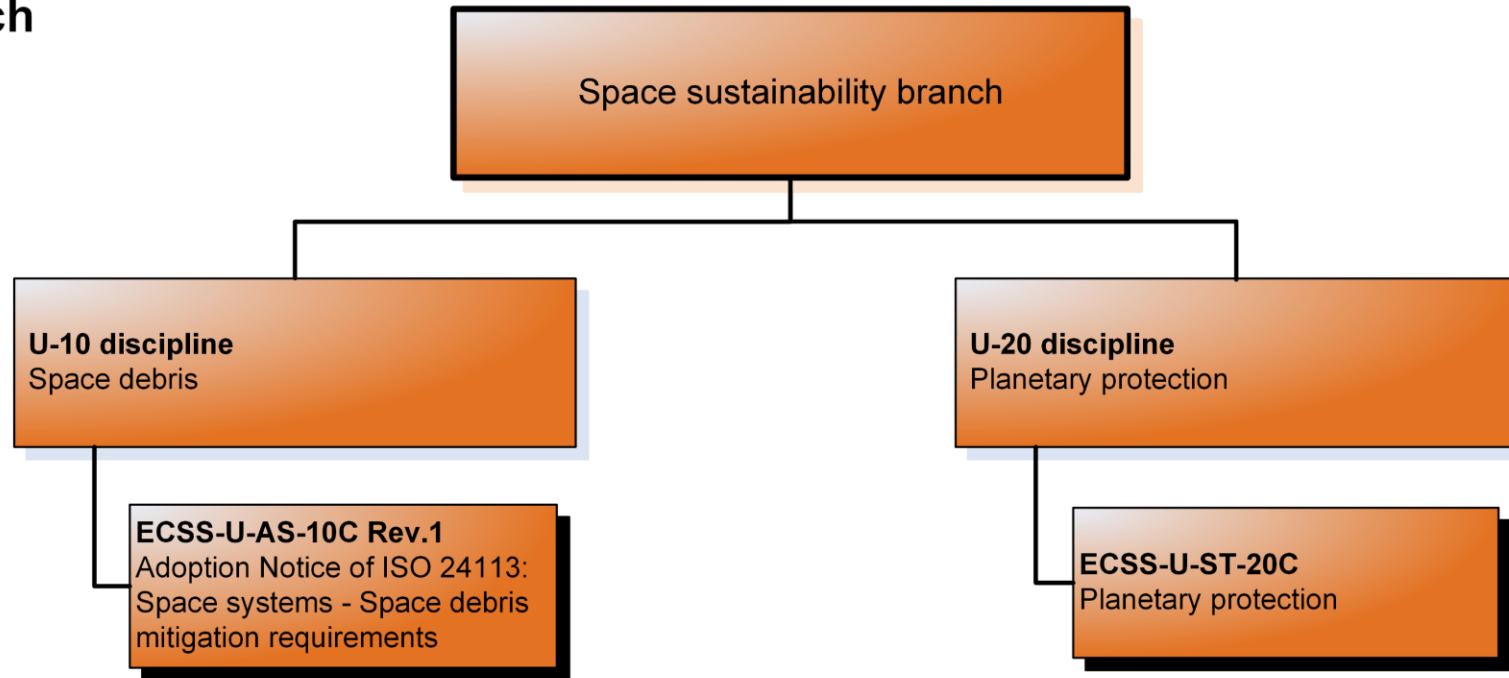




(as of 1 May 2020)

ECSS Standards

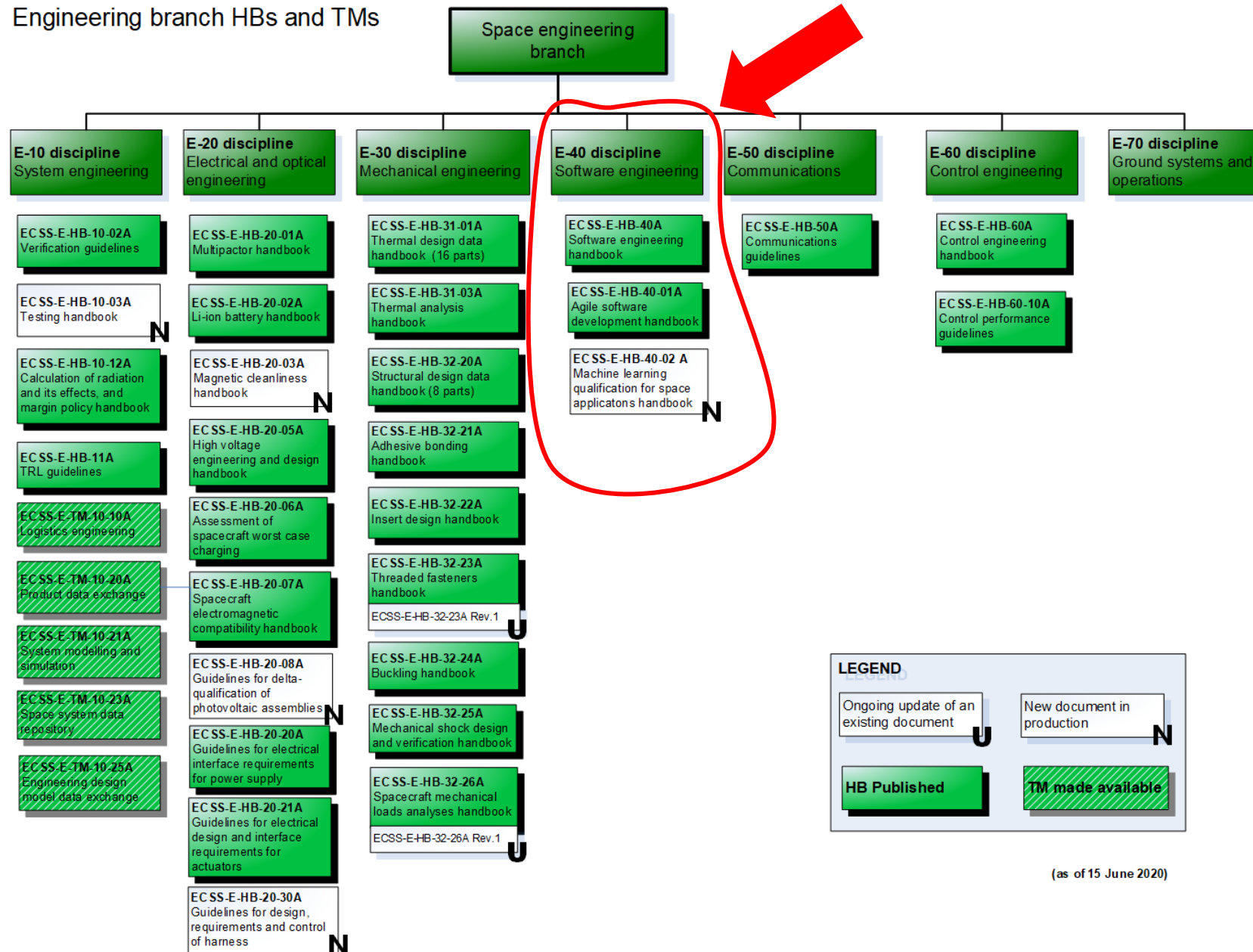
Sustainability branch



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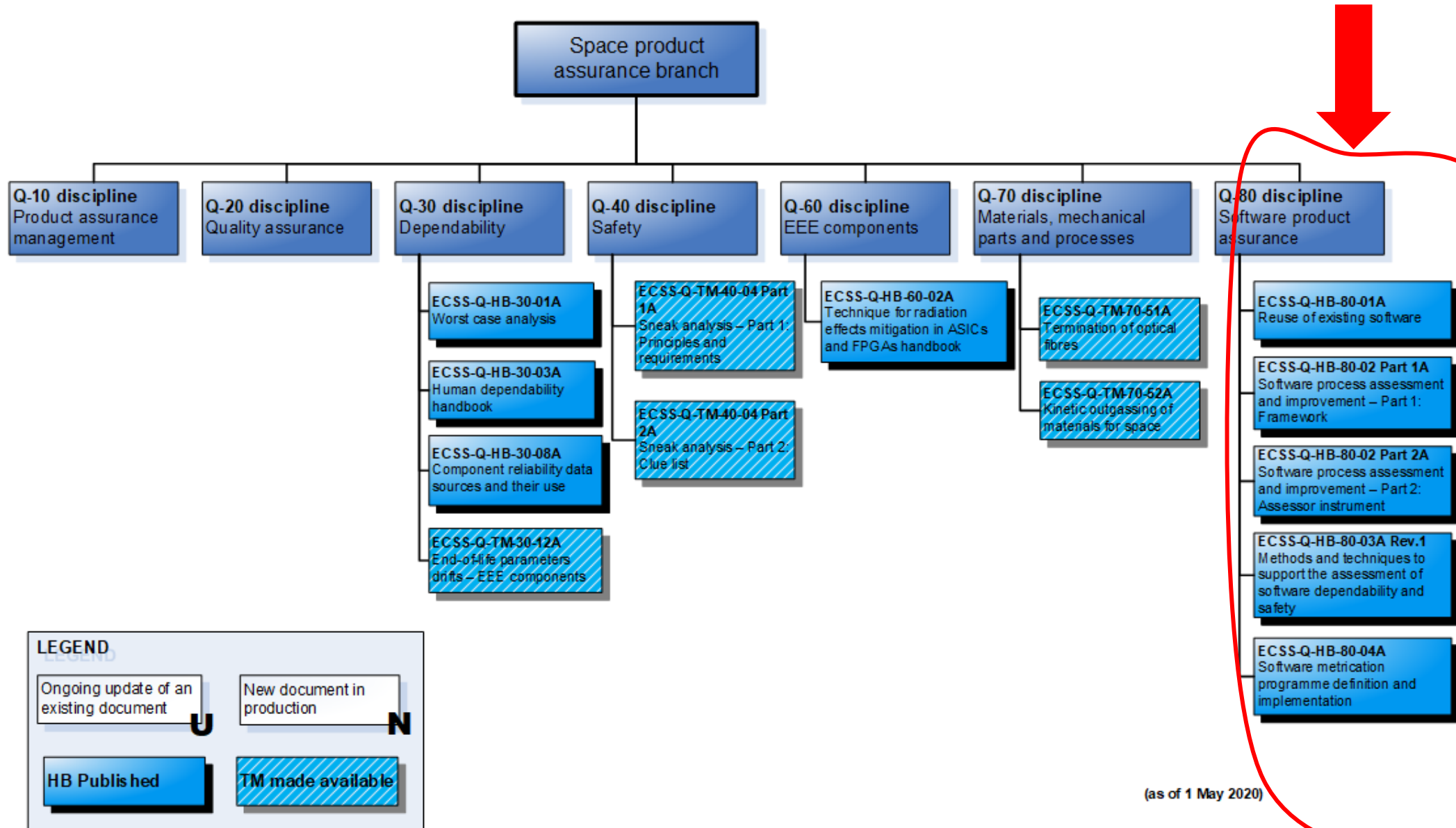
ECSS Handbooks and Technical memoranda

Engineering branch HBs and TMs



ECSS Handbooks and Technical memoranda

PA branch HBs and TMs



ECSS and Software

- ECSS-E-40C for SW Engineering
- Here an example of how it looks like
- No “rocket science” ;) but definitions/procedures that may well apply to any software project.
- Of course in the standard you have also templates for the documents.

5.5.3 Coding and testing

5.5.3.1 Development and documentation of the software units

a. The supplier shall develop and document the following:

1. the coding of each software unit;
2. the build procedures to compile and link software units;

EXPECTED OUTPUT: The following outputs are expected:

- a. *Software component design documents and code (update) [DDF, SDD, source code; CDR];*
- b. *Software configuration file - build procedures [DDF, SCF; CDR].*

Annex J (normative)

Software validation plan (SValP) - DRD

J.1 DRD identification

J.1.1 Requirement identification and source document

The software validation plan (SValP) is called from the normative provisions summarized in Table J-1.

Table J-1: SValP traceability to ECSS-E-ST-40 and ECSS-Q-ST-80 clauses

ECSS Standard	Clauses	DRD section
ECSS-E-ST-40	5.6.2.1a.	<4>, <6>
	5.6.2.1b.	<4.6>, <5>, <7>
	5.6.2.1c.	<4>
	5.8.3.9 (TS + RB)	<9>
ECSS-Q-ST-80	6.2.8.2	<4.1>c.
	6.2.8.7	<4.1>c.
	6.3.5.22	<4>
	6.3.5.23	<4.4>
	6.3.5.24	<4.6>
	6.3.5.25	<5>
	6.3.5.29	<6>

ECSS and Software

- ECSS-Q-80C for SW PA/QA
- Again, no “rocket science” ;) but a sensible list of criteria.

5.6.2 Development environment selection

5.6.2.1

- a. The software development environment shall be selected according to the following criteria:
1. availability;
 2. compatibility;
 3. performance;
 4. maintenance;
 5. durability and technical consistency with the operational equipment;
 6. the assessment of the product with respect to requirements, including the criticality category;
 7. the available support documentation;
 8. the acceptance and warranty conditions;
 9. the conditions of installation, preparation, training and use;
 10. the maintenance conditions, including the possibilities of evolutions;
 11. copyright and intellectual property rights constraints;
 12. dependence on one specific supplier.

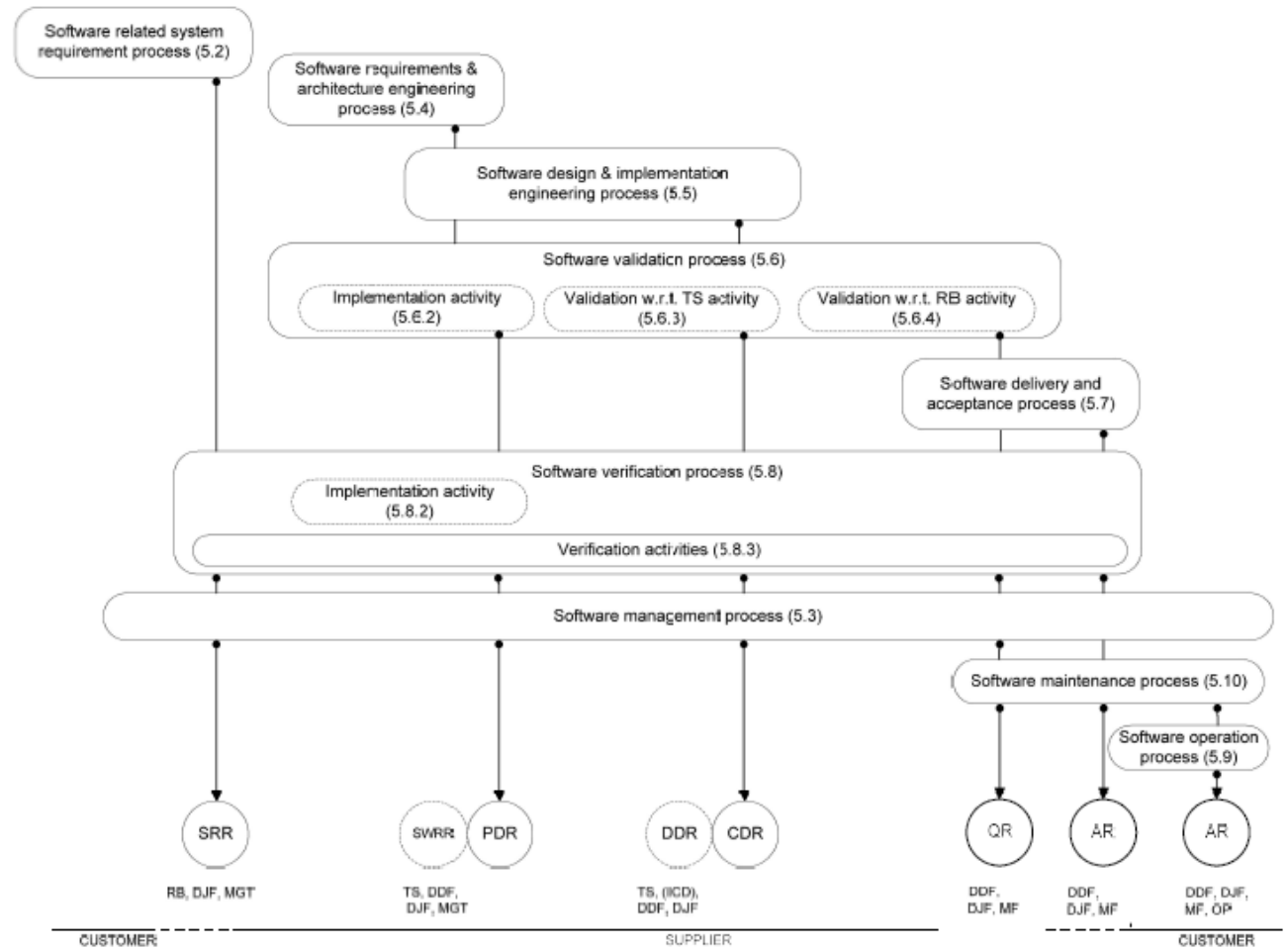
EXPECTED OUTPUT: Software development plan [MGT, SDP; SRR, PDR].

5.6.2.2

Lifecycle according to ECSS

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Figure 4-2: Overview of the software life cycle process



ECSS Reviews

5.3.4 Software project reviews description

5.3.4.1 System requirement review

- a. After completion of the software requirements baseline specification, a system requirements review (SRR) shall take place.

AIM: Reach the approval of the software requirements baseline by all stakeholders.

EXPECTED OUTPUT: Approved requirements baseline [RB; SRR].

5.3.4.2 Preliminary design review

- a. After completion of the software requirement analysis and architectural design, and the verification and validation processes implementation, a preliminary design review (PDR) shall take place.

AIM: To review compliance of the technical specification (TS) with the requirements baseline, to review the software architecture and interfaces, to review the development, verification and validation plans.

EXPECTED OUTPUT: Approved technical specification and interface, architecture and plans [TS, DDF, DJF, MGT; PDR].

- b. In case the software requirements are baselined before the start of the architectural design, the part of the PDR addressing the software requirements specification and the interfaces specification shall be held in a separate joint review anticipating the PDR, in a software requirements review (SWRR).

AIM: e.g. in case of software intensive system or when an early baseline of the requirements is required.

EXPECTED OUTPUT: Approved technical specification and interface [TS; PDR].

5.3.4.3 Critical design review

- a. After completion of the design of software items, coding and testing, integration and validation with respect to the technical specification, a critical design review (CDR) shall take place.

AIM: –To review the design definition file, including software architectural design, detailed design, code and users manual;

- To review the design justification file, including the completeness of the software unit testing, integration and validation with respect to the technical specification.

EXPECTED OUTPUT: Approved design definition file and design justification file [DDF, DJF; CDR].

- b. In case the software detailed design is baselined before the start of the coding, the part of the CDR addressing the software detailed design, the interfaces design and the software budget shall be held in a separate joint review anticipating the CDR, in a detailed design review (DDR).

EXPECTED OUTPUT: Approved detailed design, interface design and budget [DDF, DJF; CDR].

5.3.4.4 Qualification review

- a. After completion of the software validation against the requirements baseline, and the verification activities, a qualification review (QR) shall take place.

EXPECTED OUTPUT: Qualified software product [RB, TS, DDF, DJF, MGT, MF; QR].

5.3.4.5 Acceptance review

- a. After completion of the software delivery and installation, and software acceptance, an acceptance review (AR) shall take place.

AIM: To accept the software product in the intended operational environment.

EXPECTED OUTPUT: Accepted software product [RB, TS, DDF, DJF, MGT, MF; AR].

5.3.5 Software technical reviews description

5.3.5.1 Test readiness reviews

- a. Test readiness reviews (TRR) shall be held before the beginning of test activities, as defined in the software development plan.

EXPECTED OUTPUT: Confirmation of readiness of test activities [DJF; TRR]

Ground and Space SW: Is there still a difference nowadays?

- Maybe not as in the past. Cost, Complexity, Engineering effort, Consortia size have become comparable. ELT and its instruments, SKA, CTA can compare to Euclid, Athena etc. on all those aspects.
- But yes, there are differences, e.g.:
 - ✓ Changing software after launch could be extremely expensive, or even impossible while a ground mission in some nice location is always possible. This leads to much more stringent checks and conditions on space SW (not to mention that in some cases lives may be at stake).
 - ✓ Software used for space may be outdated due to space qualification constraints (e.g. operating systems).
- What about joining forces?

Would ECSS be “usable” for ground software?

- Overkill? E.g.:
 - Typical review à la ESO < 10 documents
 - Typical review à la ECSS >(>) 10 documents
- Clash with other standards (e.g. ESO)?
 - In practice, mapping ECSS to ESO is quite simple.
 - Also, ESO is currently exploring the possibility to use ECSS standard and is using it as reference in PA/QA for SW.
 - PA/QA for control SW in Maory is done according to ECSS.
- Point is that the “structure” that a standard like ECSS gives to the SW development and review process is extremely useful.
- The “reinvent the wheel syndrome” every time we tackle a new project (unless it’s an ESA project of course ;)) would be avoided as a “TODO” list would be there. Also, common structure, naming etc. would make jumping from one project to the other easier.
- Tailoring of the documents may reduce the amount of documents and requirements solving the overkill/complexity issue.

Tailoring

- **What is a tailoring? (In ECSS glossary words)**

The ECSS-E40-Part 1B standard defines a set of requirements for developing software in the scope of a space system project. It was defined by the European Cooperation for Space Standardization committee. But because these requirements cover a wide range of applications, some of them may not be applicable for small, low-cost projects. The selection process of the appropriate requirements for a particular project is called a *tailoring*. To be accurate, a tailoring must follow a certain number of rules and generally has to be done with the help of a standard expert. (...)

Of course there is an ECSS standard procedure also for tailoring...

Annex A(informative)
Example of template for an EARM for the requirements of ECSS-S-ST-00C

Identifier	Requirement	Applicable (A/M/D/N)	Modified requirement
9.2a.	The customer shall select which ECSS Standards to make applicable and to use to establish the project/product requirements, including use of ECSS-S-ST-00-01 for terms and definitions.		
9.2b.	The customer shall define, as part of the project requirements documentation (PRD), the set of requirements tailored from ECSS documents to the project specificities which are made applicable.		
9.2c.	The customer shall produce, as part of the PRD, a documentation identifying the ECSS requirements applicable to the project.		
9.2d.	<p>The documentation identifying the requirements applicable to the project (e.g. the EARM) shall include following data:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The complete list of ECSS standards either fully or partially applicable to the project/product, including any standard (ECSS or not) made applicable via the chain of normative references; 2. For each partially applicable ECSS standard, the status of each requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applicable without change (A) • applicable with modification (M) • not applicable (D) 		

But see also the ECSS Handbook on SW Engineering...

Question: MBSE and ECSS?

- In addition to tailoring, MBSE could be the next step in bridging space and ground control SW. MBSE ('S' for both Systems and Software) is “environment neutral” being used for both space and ground projects.
- MBSE ('S' for Software) used for e.g. Euclid (NISP & VIS) and Plato.
 - Tools: Rhapsody, DOORS, Enterprise Architect, UML.
- MBSE ('S' for Systems) used for e.g. Maory and Mavis.
 - Tools: Cameo, SysML.
 - Integration with PA/QA activities (BOM, FMECA etc.)
- I suppose there also initiatives in SKA, CTA, ASTRI...
- ESA carries on also an MBSE initiative based on Capella/Arcadia and TASTE, used on several missions.
- ECSS and MBSE have then been integrated by ESA in the context of Euclid and Plato projects with a solution based on DOORS, Enterprise Architect, SysML and a handful of DBs.

Answer: Why not?

- MBSE could give the framework where ECSS structure can be implemented. E.g. Reviews, Verification Matrixes, Requirement flow down, Design etc. possibly up to the “Holy Graal”: Code Generation.
- Documents could be generated but, as we want a paperless world, the model should be the unique “Source of Truth”. ECSS would live there in the model.
- There is a long way in homogenizing tools, languages and methodologies, with a visionary view on MBA (Model Based Architecture) i.e. integrating models from other domains (Mechanics, Electronics...).
- Work is ongoing.





The End

Domanden?