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SRI to hold inaugural conference in Colorado Spring 2013 meeting eyed

Space Renaissance International will hold its inaugural conference in Boulder, Colorado, sometime during the spring of 2013, the SRI Executive Committee decided during a two-day meeting this past weekend.

Scott Brown, the head of the new U.S. chapter that will serve as headquarters for the global organization, said the conference will provide an opportunity to focus attention on what Space Renaissance International has to offer and how it differs from many other space-oriented organizations.

That difference, Brown said, is that SRI is an international organization with aims to save civilization.

"To be successful with the start-up (of the U.S. chapter,) we need to be clear what our PURPOSE is and be able to fully explain to media, press, space enthusiasts and other space organizations what we are planning on doing," he said.

Brown gave a status report on the incorporation of the non-profit entity and its plans for the immediate future, including establishing a board of directors. He suggested that regional offices be established.

The Colorado state filing for 501(c)3 status is under way and should be followed within 90 days with a filing through the federal Internal Revenue Service, Brown said. Meanwhile, he said, SRI has the authority to proceed to raise funds.

The executive committee voted earlier in the session to accelerate a drive for its Space Investment Fund, also referred to as the International Space Development Fund, previously scheduled to begin in 2014. The fund, referred to in an approved resolution as the "Medici Space Foundation," will now become a priority for the remainder of 2012 and beyond.

Committee members also voted to suspend efforts to launch an International Moon Landing Day celebration to spur global interest in space exploration and development. Supporting such a celebration had been discussed last year around this time to commemorate the July 1969 Apollo lunar landing, but with the passing of another year there has been little organizational activity.

The committee voted to maintain the Civilization Risk Assessment and Management project, one of three projects approved by the SRI Congress a year ago, as an SRI priority and to name a project manager. It also approved steps to participate in another program OK'd by the Congress, the Virtual Orbiting Space Settlement, by taking steps to join the VOSS project created independently by Executive Committee member Kim Peart and Dr. Jennifer Bolton.

Among other business items during the two-day Skype conference, the committee voted to name fellow committee member Susan Singer as SRI's Secretaire Generale to replace Gail Leatherwood, who stepped down from the position for personal reasons. It also decided to pursue a collaboration with Kepler Space Institute's impending Journal of Space Philosophy.