

8.3

Paxsat Program Plan (Continued)

Launch vehicle manufacturing and integration times based on the payment schedule for such procurements will take 30 to 36 months. Thus, launch vehicles are usually procured 30 to 36 months in advance of the launch date with notification of projected launch demands given prior to this period.

A 5 year operational lifetime for the low earth orbit and semi-synchronous orbit satellites and 10 year lifetime for geosynchronous orbit satellites can be expected. Prior to the expiration of these satellites, replacement satellites need to be launched to insure continuity of coverage. Technological updates to the satellite designs may be made on 10 year centers corresponding to the lifetime of the geosynchronous satellites. Refuelling capability coupled with the modular design of the Paxsat spacecraft may increase the operational lifetime of the low earth orbit satellites with in-orbit types manned repaired missions like that demonstrated with the recent repair of the Solar Maximum Mission by a shuttle crew.