

June 7, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to express my complete satisfaction at the work that Simplify Robotics has performed in support of the human space program. They have provided outstanding, professional support for us in many endeavors. The quality of their technical work has been outstanding, and they have been attentive to schedule and cost constraints throughout our working relationship. Their staff has been cordial and responsive in all cases, and their eagerness to take on challenging tasks is matched by their ability to meet those challenges.

Among their fine technical accomplishments, perhaps the most outstanding was the development of a capability called "adaptive control of robotic trainers" (ACORT). This capability allows an arm with a given set of physical characteristics (number of joints, joint configurations, boom lengths, etc.) to be driven by a simulation of an arm with different physical characteristics. This is particularly useful to us here at NASA because we have hardware trainers for both the space shuttle and space station robot arms, which have differing physical characteristics (among other things, the shuttle arm has 6 joints and the station arm has 7 joints). In the event that we have a problem with one of the hardware trainers, which happens from time to time, ACORT provides us the ability to use the other hardware trainer to complete our training exercises. For instance, if the station arm hardware trainer fails, we can use the shuttle arm hardware trainer to complete station arm training exercises. This ensures that we can continue training operations involving both arms even if we have a major hardware failure in one of our trainers, which is truly a benefit to NASA.

In summary, I'm a strong advocate of Arjang and his team at Simplify Robotics because of the fine work experiences that I've had with them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael McFarlane", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael McFarlane  
Manager, Trick Laboratory  
NASA Johnson Space Center