

**Charles Bolden, NASA Administrator**

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual NASA Small Business**

**Symposium and Awards Ceremony**

**Herndon, Virginia**

November 3, 2011

- Thank you, Glenn (Delgado) and congratulations to your team and all of this year's award winners for another outstanding year.
- I look forward to this event every year because it reminds me that NASA could not achieve the big things we do without the help of small business.
- Small businesses are not only crucial to NASA; they are the backbone of the American economy.
- As the wheels of our economy continue to pick up steam, it is important to remember that small business is the engine that is getting us moving again.

- According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), small firms have generated 65 percent of net new jobs over the past 17 years.
- Federal procurement for women, minority, and veteran-owned small businesses are a big part of that equation.
- The Obama Administration understands the importance of this sector, and has consistently worked, through SBA loans, technical assistance, and tax incentives, to help more small businesses start and grow.
- The President's American Jobs Act will do even more, including:
- **Cutting the payroll tax in half for 98 percent of businesses**: The President's plan will cut in half the taxes paid by businesses on their first \$5 million in payroll, targeting the benefit to the 98 percent of firms that have payroll below this threshold.

- **A complete payroll tax holiday for added workers or increased wages:** The President's plan will completely eliminate payroll taxes for firms that increase their payroll by adding new workers or increasing the wages of their current worker (the benefit is capped at the first \$50 million in payroll increases).
- **Extending 100% expensing into 2012:** This continues an effective incentive for new investment.
- **Reforms and regulatory reductions to help entrepreneurs and small businesses access capital;**  
including
- **A Program to turn job-seekers into job-creators:**  
Through innovative use of Federal unemployment insurance funds, all 50 states will have the flexibility to support long-term unemployed workers who create their own jobs by starting their own companies.

- A few states already have these self-employment assistance (SEA) programs, many of which have been remarkably successful. For example, SEA allowed two unemployed software developers to start a new mobile advertising company in 2009 – and today that company has raised \$6.5 million in venture capital, employs 28 workers, and plans to hire many more.
- These are provisions that will make it possible for more small business to succeed and to create the jobs our economy so desperately needs.
- NASA shares the Administration's strong commitment to the small business community...and I am proud of what we have done, under Glenn's leadership to move the ball forward.

- Due to the hard work of everyone in the agency, and especially those who will be honored today, NASA exceeded our Small Business Goal for FY-11.
- This includes \$2.5 billion in prime contracts awarded directly to small businesses – an increase of approximately \$75 million from FY-10.
- Our large Prime Contractors awarded approximately an additional \$2 billion in subcontracts to Small Businesses in FY-11.
- When you add that all up, NASA awarded approximately \$4.3 billion to Small Businesses in FY-11.
- This clearly shows how committed we are to the small business community and how important you are to our success.
- Let me remind you that this is just a start.
- There will be new opportunities to work together as NASA takes its next big leap into deep space exploration.

- As you may know, we recently began work on a new Space Launch System that will be capable of taking our astronauts into deep space to places we have never gone before.
- As a result, we will be turning over transport of astronauts and cargo to the International Space Station (ISS) and other low earth destinations to commercial crew partners.
- In addition, NASA Science continues with missions to Jupiter, the Moon, and Mars; Dawn's orbit of a giant asteroid; and MESSENGER's unprecedented data from Mercury is just beginning to be analyzed.
- The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), now in development, will be the successor to the Hubble Space Telescope and the most powerful space telescope ever built.
- We'll continue to undertake these world-class science missions to observe our planet, reach destinations

throughout the solar system and peer even deeper into the universe.

- We're also advancing aeronautics research, in partnership with other agencies, to create a safer, more environmentally friendly and efficient air travel network for the Next Generation Air Transportation System, or NextGen.
- All of this means jobs for the American people and new opportunities for small business.
- And now for the fun part.

We will now recognize NASA civil servants and our industry partners, both large and small, who helped us exceed our small business goals last year.

- This year, the Small Business Advocates come from Kennedy Space Center, Langley Research Center, Goddard Space Flight Center, and Marshall Space Flight Center...and our industry partners perform work at all the Centers.
- And now I will turn the program back over to Glenn...

