



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

JUL 8 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH  
PROJECTS AGENCY  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY  
DIRECTOR, MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY  
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL IMAGERY AND MAPPING  
AGENCY  
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

SUBJECT: Space Test Program Management and Funding Policy

The Commission to Assess United States National Security Space Management and Organization recommended, "The Secretary of Defense should direct...the Services' laboratories to undertake development and demonstration of innovative space technologies and systems for dedicated military missions." This recommendation directly supports the role of the Space Test Program (STP) which, since 1967, has been the primary provider of mission design, spacecraft acquisition, integration, launch, and on-orbit operations for DoD's most innovative space experiments, technologies and demonstrations.

In support of the STP mission, the attached revision of the management and funding policy reaffirms the Air Force as Executive Agent for STP and establishes the goal of launching a Small Launch Vehicle-Class mission every two years and a Medium Launch Vehicle-Class mission every four years. In addition, STP will continue its role as the single manager of all DoD payloads on the Space Shuttle and International Space Station.

Attachment:  
As stated



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## **SPACE TEST PROGRAM (STP) MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING POLICY**

### **1. MISSION**

The mission of the Space Test Program (STP) is to provide mission design, spacecraft acquisition, integration, launch, and on-orbit operations for the maximum number of Department of Defense (DoD) space technologies and experiments, consistent with priority, opportunity, and available funding.

### **2. APPROACH**

STP provides the critical infrastructure required to support spaceflight and demonstration of emerging technologies for the entire DoD space research community. This infrastructure includes mission design, spacecraft acquisition, integration, launch, and on-orbit operations. DoD Agencies fund and develop experimental payloads (hereafter called “experiments”). A multi-agency board, the DoD Space Experiments Review Board (SERB), annually evaluates, approves, and prioritizes candidate experiments based on military relevance and quality. These technology demonstrations characterize the space environment or sensor physics; demonstrate new space system concepts, technologies, and designs; reduce risk by flight testing prototype space systems and components; and evaluate early operational capabilities.

STP considers a variety of spaceflight modes, including secondary payload opportunities on the Space Shuttle, International Space Station, and other military, civil, and commercial satellites. For those experiments that cannot be accommodated by secondary opportunities, STP provides a dedicated spacecraft and launch either as a primary or secondary payload on an expendable launch vehicle.

### **3. MANAGEMENT**

The Air Force shall continue to serve as the Executive Agent for STP, providing a multi-user space program in support of Army, Navy, Air Force, NRO, and other DoD Agencies. All Services and DoD Agencies are encouraged to assign qualified personnel to the STP program office. Additionally, STP may request personnel augmentation for the duration of special programs conducted for a Service or DoD Agency when required.

The Air Force has designated STP to serve as the primary DoD program supporting human spaceflight payload integration and operations and, as such, acts as the single manager for all DoD payloads on the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. STP sponsors DoD payloads to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to exploit the capabilities of the Shuttle and the Space Station. STP also performs or manages all crew training, payload integration, and operations for DoD payloads flown on these platforms.

STP will maintain a highly technical, capable management organization. The capability of this organization will not be duplicated within the DoD except by operational programs or major developmental programs. This centralized management approach results in lower overall costs to DoD by: 1) Limiting duplication of space experiments through the SERB's evaluation process; 2) Avoiding duplication of spacecraft and launch vehicle procurement activities and taking advantage of the inherent contractual economy of scale; 3) Maintaining a resource base of manpower and equipment; 4) Combining multiple experiments from various Services and DoD Agencies into a single optimized mission.

#### **4. FUNDING**

The STP funding level must be sufficient to provide spaceflight for SERB-approved experiments in a timely manner. As a goal, the Air Force funding level should provide for a Small-Launch-Vehicle-Class mission every 2 years and a Medium-Launch-Vehicle-Class mission every 4 years. This is in addition to funding required to support secondary payload and spacecraft missions on other organizations' spacecraft and launch vehicles. STP funding shall be adjusted for outyear escalation to cover inflation.

While STP funds may be used for integration of experiments onto a launch vehicle or spacecraft, launch, and approximately 12 months of on-orbit experiment operations, STP shall not fund any costs for experiment development, testing, or data reduction. Additionally, STP generally will not provide highly sophisticated, expensive spacecraft. Increased costs due to special requirements beyond standard STP services will be borne by the experiment sponsor.

#### **5. EXPERIMENT SELECTION**

The Air Force will convene an annual DoD SERB with voting representatives from the Services and DoD Agencies. DoD Agencies may sponsor a non-DoD experiment to the SERB, with appropriate justification of military relevance. The SERB shall evaluate, approve, and prioritize a list of candidate experiments for spaceflight consideration. Military relevance shall be the primary consideration in determining experiment priority. STP will then determine how to provide spaceflight to the maximum number of approved experiments, consistent with SERB priority, opportunity, and available funding.

Prior to funding a particular mission, STP shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement with each experiment sponsor. In no event shall STP fund a mission unless all experiment sponsors have first programmed all funding required for experiment development, data reduction, and dissemination of experimental results.