

Oral Statement for Christopher J. Scolese
before the
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations

Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Wolf, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me here today to discuss the President's FY 2010 budget request for NASA, as submitted to Congress on February 26. The President's request of \$18.686B represents an increase of \$903.6M above the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriation. Because the President's detailed request has not yet been submitted to Congress, I will address the FY 2010 budget overview, highlights of NASA's FY 2009 funding, and current program status.

NASA's initial FY 2009 Operating Plan is \$18.784B, or about \$1.17B above the President's FY 2009 request, which reflects an increase of \$168.2M in the regular appropriation and about \$1.0B in the Recovery Act. NASA is appreciative of the action by the Committee and Congress in providing full funding in the regular appropriation and for providing Recovery Act funds, which will enable NASA to meet critical priorities.

In Earth Science, NASA is continuing to work aggressively to implement the recommendations of the Decadal Survey. The first two Decadal missions, SMAP and ICESat-II, will continue formulation in FY 2010; the next two, DESDynI and CLARREO, will be accelerated, and NASA will issue its first Venture-class Announcement of Opportunity later this year. In the next year, we plan to launch the Glory and Aquarius missions and the GOES-O mission for NOAA; complete development of the NPOESS Preparatory Project; continue development of the foundational missions, including the Global Precipitation Mission and the Landsat Data Continuity Mission; and initiate work on a Thermal Infra-Red Sensor to complement LDCM. NASA is assessing options to recover from the disappointing loss of the Orbiting Carbon Observatory, and will keep the Congress informed of our plans.

We are continuing the exploration of the solar system with Planetary Science missions, Juno to Jupiter, and the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL), both planned for launch in 2011, and the recent NASA selection of the MAVEN Scout mission.

NASA's fleet of Heliophysics missions strategically placed throughout the solar system is providing researchers the first ever solar system-wide view of solar influences on Earth and other planets, and the dynamic structures of space itself.

In Astrophysics, NASA launched the Kepler mission to search for Earth-like planets in our galaxy. The final Space Shuttle servicing mission to the Hubble Space Telescope aboard STS-125 is scheduled for launch on May 11 to upgrade

the observatory to its peak scientific performance. Development continues on the James Webb Space Telescope, which passed its Confirmation Review in 2008 and has an Agency commitment to launch in 2014. Formulation continues for ambitious future mission concepts to search for Earth-like planets around nearby stars, to explore the universe and the nature of dark energy.

The FY 2010 budget request renews NASA's commitment to a strong national program in Aeronautics that contributes to the economic well-being and quality of life of American citizens through its strong partnerships with industry, academia, and other government agencies. Our Airspace Systems Program continues to collaborate with the Joint Planning Development Office to enhance the capacity, efficiency and flexibility of the National Airspace System.

In Exploration, the President's FY 2010 budget overview directs that NASA advance the development of the next-generation human spaceflight system to carry American crews and supplies to space and work to return Americans to the Moon. NASA Exploration Systems continues to make significant progress in developing the next-generation U.S. human spaceflight vehicles and their associated ground and mission support systems. Soon, the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and the Lunar Crater Observation Sensing Satellite spacecraft will be launched to help NASA scout for potential lunar landing sites. Later this year, two major test flights for the Constellation Program will be conducted; first the Ares I-X developmental test flight will launch from KSC Pad 39B to support the design of the Ares I Crew

Launch Vehicle, and second the Pad Abort 1 (PA-1) test at the White Sands Missile Range will be the first test of the Launch Abort System for the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle.

The President's FY 2010 budget funds the safe flight of the Space Shuttle to conduct a final servicing mission for the HST, complete the ISS, and then retire the Shuttle in 2010. An additional flight to deliver the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer to the ISS will be conducted if it can safely and affordably be flown by the end of 2010. In May, the ISS will host its first six-person crew, and in June, the STS-127 mission will deliver the third and final component of the Japanese *Kibo* laboratory setting the stage for utilization of the ISS as a highly capable research facility.

In December 2008, the Agency awarded two Commercial Resupply Services contracts to develop vehicles that are required to deliver supplies and experiments to the Space Station. The benefits from Space Shuttle missions and ISS research are ultimately demonstrated in the programs' ability to inspire the next generation of Americans. This was reflected recently in the delighted faces of students who participated in the uplinked phone call between President Obama and the station on March 24.

NASA's Education Program will continue developing a future aerospace workforce, improving the technological competitiveness of our Nation's universities, and attracting and retaining students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.

Finally, the FY 2010 budget funds NASA Cross-Agency Support programs, which provide critical mission support activities necessary to ensure the efficient and effective operation and administration of the Agency, including the management and operations of our Centers.

Chairman Mollohan, thank you again for your support and that of this Subcommittee. The five of us would be pleased to respond to any questions you or the other Members of the Subcommittee may have.