National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

April 21, 2010

Reply to Attn of: Office of the Chief Technologist

TO: NASA Center Directors

FROM: Chief Technologist

SUBJECT: Center Support to the Office of the Chief Technologist

The NASA Technology Integration Governance Policy was recently approved by Administrator Bolden and sent to the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Space and Technology Policy for review. I want to thank each of you for your valuable and constructive suggestions to improve and finalize this document that lays the groundwork for the Agency's new technology investment strategy. I am writing to request initial action on a few additional critical items in support of the newly established Office of Chief Technologist (OCT) and this technology integration policy.

Establishment of Center Chief Technologist - As specified in the above referenced policy, I believe each NASA Center, including Jet Propulsion Laboratory, should have a Center Chief Technologist (CCT). While the assignment of a CCT, as well as their roles and responsibilities are decisions reserved for Center management, proposed guidelines for this position are identified in the policy document. I am thus requesting that each NASA Field Center provide OCT, by May 10, 2010, the name of an acting or permanent CCT. In case the initial person identified is acting, we ask that the Center appoint or select a permanent person by July 16, 2010. The CCT's will report to Center management and serve as the Point of Contact (POC) for their Center to OCT.

OCT Expectations of Center Chief Technologists - The OCT is expecting the CCT's to fulfill the following responsibilities:

a) Report to Center management and serve as the principal advisor to Center leadership on matters concerning Center-wide technology development and leverage.
b) Communicate Center technology capabilities through representation on CTC.
c) Serve as Center POC for the NASA Center Innovation Fund (CIF). Responsible for reporting and programmatic management of the CIF at the Center level.
d) Serve as Center focal point for Space Technology Research Fellowships
e) Lead technology transfer, The Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer and commercialization opportunities across the center, including activities of solicitation, evaluation, and selection.
f) Serve as Center change agent, particularly regarding the workforce's capacity to innovate.
g) Document, demonstrate and communicate societal impact of Center technology accomplishments.

These CCT responsibilities were derived from the set of the responsibilities the Administrator has charged to the OCT. To meet these responsibilities, CCT's should have significant technical experience within the core competencies of their Center and also technical experience at other NASA Centers, within industry or academia. CCT's should not only have significant technical depth, but also possess the ability to think at a system-level and apply technical knowledge to significant societal challenges. CCT's should possess demonstrated technical leadership and communication skills. However, significant program management experience and/or new business management experience are not required.

Transition of IPP to Support the Center Chief Technologist - In FY11, the Agency's Innovative Partnerships Program (IPP) will be absorbed into the OCT. I plan to utilize the CCT's as the lead, or OCT POC, for the existing functions currently funded by IPP. I encourage each of you to begin planning the transition to the new reporting and organizational structure for FY11 implementation. In accordance with the governing policy, it is also my expectation that the CCT will provide programmatic management and reporting for the Center Innovation Fund Program and provide insight to OCT on leveraging opportunities for Center projects within Space Technology.

As outlined in the technology integration policy, the CCT's will also form the collective membership of the Center Technology Council (CTC) to be utilized in implementation of the technology integration policy.

Support of Strategic Technology Road-Mapping - I anticipate commencing initial Agency technology strategic planning activities this summer. This activity will require support from key subject matter experts and other skilled individuals from your Centers. OCT will also request CTC inputs to the Agency's technology road-mapping and prioritization activities to provide Center perspectives on these efforts. These inputs will include both technology areas of significant interest, as well as suggested names of subject matter experts to populate the technology area teams who will perform the road-mapping.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response and support of the OCT and NASA Space Technology. With your continued support and wise investment of CIF's, the OCT will foster innovative technologies with the ability to transform the performance and cost of future NASA missions.

Dr. Robert D. Braun

<u>NASA Center Directors</u>
ARC/Dr. Worden
DFRC/Mr. McBride
GRC/Mr. Lugo (Acting)
GSFC/Mr. Strain
KSC/Mr. Cabana
LaRC/Ms. Roe
MSFC/Mr. Lightfoot
SSC/Mr. Scheuermann