

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 9, 2011

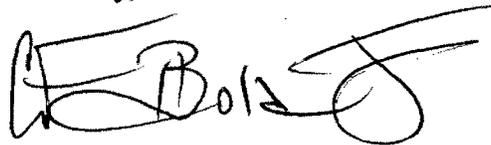
Dr. Kenneth Ford
Chairman
NASA Advisory Council
Washington, DC 20546


Dear Dr. Ford:

Enclosed is NASA's response to a recommendation from the NASA Advisory Council meeting held October 6-7, 2010, in Palmdale, CA. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Council would like further background on this response. I appreciate the Council's thoughtful consideration leading to this recommendation and welcome its continued observations and advice concerning NASA's plans and programs.

I look forward to working closely with you and the members of the Council in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Bolden, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator

Enclosure:
2010-04-06 (EC-02) Invite International Partners to Contribute to all Aspects of the
Exploration Architecture

Tracking Number: 2010-04-06 (EC-02)

Invite International Partners to Contribute to all Aspects of the Exploration Architecture

NASA Recommendation:

The NAC recommends that NASA pursue a policy that, considering the U.S. space industrial base and broad national security interests, invites potential partners to contribute to all aspects of the exploration architecture. In the exceptional case, where appropriate, partnerships on the critical path elements of the deep space transportation system should be considered.

NASA Response:

NASA concurs with the recommendation. NASA has established a number of mechanisms and processes to ensure the broadest engagement with potential international partners in human and robotic exploration. A variety of bilateral activities with multiple key space agencies have taken place or are ongoing, including basic information exchange, joint architecture studies and international collaboration involving robotic analogue, and flight precursor mission cooperation. In parallel, NASA is heavily engaged through the 14-agency International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) in a number of activities that are laying the groundwork for broad space exploration cooperation. Through ISECG, NASA led a multilateral 18-month study which culminated in the June 2010 release of a global lunar reference architecture. NASA is currently co-leading with the European Space Agency the development of a Global Exploration Roadmap which is intended to assist individual space agencies in planning for collaborative exploration opportunities. We feel that these processes and tools are well suited to inform both NASA and the international community of the most advantageous partnership opportunities, including potentially significant critical path contributions.