

Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC)

Agency Introduction: The FY 2012 budget request for NASA is \$18.7 billion, the FY 2010 enacted level. The NASA Authorization Act of 2010 has provided a clear direction for NASA, and the skilled workforce at NASA Centers is critical to the success of the Act's important objectives.

Highlights of DRFC's FY 2012 activities: The FY 2012 budget proposes \$284 million in spending at DFRC.

- \$72 million for Aeronautics Research to support contributions to NextGen including UAS integration in the NAS, aviation safety, and environmentally responsible aviation.
- \$70 million in Science, primarily for Earth science observations from aircraft, with an emphasis on climate change, and development and operation of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy aircraft.
- \$30 million in Space Technology for the Dryden Innovation fund, disbursement of select SBIR/STTR awards and program funds for the Flight Opportunities' Level 2 program office which Dryden manages.
- \$11 million to further NASA's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education efforts.
- \$3 million in Exploration on testing to support the Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle.
- \$98 million for institutional requirements includes: \$76 million for Cross-Agency Support; \$22 million for Construction and Environmental Compliance Restoration for minor revitalization and construction projects to repair and modernize center infrastructure to reduce risk of mission disruption due to facility failures.

The NASA Dryden Flight Research Center (DFRC) is located 90 miles north of Los Angeles, California, at Edwards Air Force Base. Dryden is a leader in atmospheric flight research and advances technology and science through flight and test, particularly for all phases of flight projects from highly developed design through development, fabrication, and operations processes. Because of Dryden's unique flight research and test expertise, the Center provides essential capabilities in carrying out many of the Agency's missions; test and validate space exploration concepts safely fly-out the Space Shuttle operations, conduct airborne remote sensing and science observations, and revolutionize aeronautical research and development (R&D) through aviation and aerospace technology.

Dryden is the base of operations of a fleet of scientific aircraft, such as the DC-8, ER-2, G-3, Global Hawk (RQ-4), and Ikhana (MQ-9) airborne science platforms to make in-situ and remote sensing observations for Earth science.

Dryden also leads the development and operation of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) to study our Universe. The Center will also advance flight configurations and critical systems to successfully achieve the NextGen (Next Generation Air Transportation System) goals, including the integration of Unmanned Aerial Systems into the National Airspace.. Based on the Center's core competency in flight research and flight testing, Dryden serves as the Level 2 Program Office for the Space Technology Flight Opportunities project, implement the Dryden Innovation Fund, and continue to

support the Office of the Chief Technologist's Partnerships Innovation and Commercial Space and Strategic Integration activities. Dryden furthers NASA's commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education through flight opportunities in reduced-gravity environments, with brief periods of weightlessness.

Economic Impact:

NASA Dryden FY 2012 budget: \$284 million

NASA Dryden FY 2012 civil servant workforce (FTE estimate) 555

NASA Center Contracts/Grants Obligated (FY 2010) \$204 million

(Obligation data from the Federal Procurement Data System)

Current impact to the state, region:

NASA Dryden is a significant asset for the state of California and the region. In addition to maintaining highly skilled technological and manufacturing expertise for the area, the Center's budget has leveraged significant impact for the state, resulting in an annual payroll of \$74 million and \$250 million in annual expenditures in California, resulting in the creation of over 1,760 indirect jobs in the state. Dryden employees enhance business development, create jobs, and increase the tax base. Payroll taxes generated by NASA Dryden civil service translate into approximately \$12 million in Federal taxes and \$3 million in state and local taxes. NASA Dryden's highly skilled and highly educated workforce serves as a resource for educators and community leaders. For example, NASA Dryden's Education programs reach approximately 20,000 students and teachers annually.