



February 23, 2011

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

  
Dear Dr. Ford:

Enclosed are NASA's responses to three recommendations from the NASA Advisory Council meeting held on August 5-6, 2010, at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Council would like further background on these responses. I appreciate the Council's thoughtful consideration leading to these recommendations 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

3 Enclosures:

1. 2010-03-13 (SC-01) Interaction with the Joint Program Satellite System (JPSS)
2. 2010-03-15 (SOC-01) Establishment of a Technology and Development Clearinghouse
3. 2010-03-20 (TIC-02) Implementation of New Space Technology Programs

**Tracking Number 2010-03-13 (SC-01)**  
**Interaction with the Joint Program Satellite System (JPSS)**

**NASA Advisory Council Recommendation:**

The Council recommends that appropriate forums be established that will facilitate the development of an integrated observing space-based strategy for both research and operational National Satellite Systems.

**NASA Response:**

NASA concurs with the assertion that having appropriate forums for facilitating the development of an integrated observing space-based strategy for both research and operational National Satellite Systems is important. In fact, these forums already exist. For example, the Director of the Earth Science Division (ESD) has recently been appointed Vice Chair of the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) in charge of developing a national Integrated Observation Strategy, which combines satellite and *in situ* measurements and involves the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), as well as other agencies. These USGCRP activities are being developed in close consultation with the Office of Science and Technology Policy and in coordination with the overall USGCRP Strategic Planning activities. ESD's explicit participation in USGCRP and Vice Chairmanship for Integrated Observations provides the appropriate forums for planning. In addition, NASA participates actively in the U.S. Group on Earth Observations and the international Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). In fact, the Director of ESD is the present Vice Chair and incoming Chair [11/2011] of the CEOS Strategic Implementation Team. Furthermore, bilateral agency-level interactions occur regularly in forums such as Joint Working Group Meetings between NASA ESD and NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service and quarterly meetings between ESD and USGS.

Enclosure 1

**Tracking Number 2020-03-15 (SOC-01)**  
**Establishment of a Technology and Development Clearinghouse**

**NAC Recommendation:**

NASA should establish a technology and development clearinghouse across all NASA disciplines. This could be in the process, format and style of an online wiki where researchers input their own information (such as type of technology, application, license information, key words, and contact info). This information should be organized to be readily available online to other researchers and the public.

**NASA Response:**

NASA concurs with the NAC recommendation.

NASA recognizes the need for a publicly accessible, collaborative clearinghouse to share technology and development information. To meet this need, the NASA Office of the Chief Technologist (OCT) is in the early stages of formulating a dynamic and collaborative Web-based environment. The goal of this new resource is to create a high-impact, community-based site that audiences will utilize as a resource for information relevant to their inquiry. Initially, the site will be available to internal audiences and, upon maturity, OCT will release the site to provide readily available information to researchers and the public. Information such as announcements, solicitation opportunities, technology information and applications, and technology grand challenges, as well as forms, processes, and contact information, will be accessible to the public. OCT also plans to utilize and fully integrate the power of social media to enhance the collaborative environment. The ultimate goal will be a Web site that allows internal audiences, and eventually the public, to collaborate on future activities and challenges through online dialogue, contribute to NASA's planning and development process, and provide a forum for soliciting feedback and receiving information that could improve NASA programs and technologies.

**Tracking Number 2010-03-20 (TIC-02)**  
**Implementation of New Space Technology Programs**

**NAC Recommendation:**

The Council recommends that NASA allow the Office of the Chief Technologist (OCT) to begin program implementation activities for the new Space Technology programs. This should include the OCT requesting a budget anomaly to the forthcoming "Continuing Resolution," allowing the OCT to begin initial program implementation activities including the issuance of Broad Area Announcements (BAAs) for the new Space Technology programs.

**NASA Response:**

NASA concurs with the recommendation and puts forth several proposals for anomalies to Congress for their consideration. One of these proposed anomalies was the following:

*"NASA is authorized to proceed with release of external solicitations for funding proposals for FY 2011 activities of the new Space Technology program, provided that selection decisions and funding allocations do not occur until such time as FY 2011 funds are available for such activities."*

It was the desire of Congress to keep the first Continuing Resolution clean of anomalies. In December, the House passed a Full Year Continuing Resolution which contained several anomalies for NASA, but that legislation did not have the votes to pass the Senate. Congress subsequently passed, and the President signed, a Continuing Resolution (P.L. 111-322) which contained limited anomalies. While NASA did not receive a Continuing Resolution anomaly for the Space Technology program, NASA concluded that it has sufficient authority to proceed with the Space Technology Research Fellowships solicitation, released on December 29, 2010. OCT is working with the NASA Administrator and other stakeholders on releasing additional pending Space Technology solicitations.