The Office of the Chief Technologist (OCT) manages the Agency’s space technology programs, including the following:

- Technology transfer and commercialization.
- Agency-level technology strategy and coordination.
- Technology partnerships with other Government agencies and other organizations.
- Communication of the Agency technology successes and failures.

In fulfilling these objectives, OCT also works to instill innovation and creativity in NASA's business practices. The OCT works to consciously innovate and reposition NASA on the cutting edge, creating a space program for the 21st century.

NASA's Space Technology program seeks to align Mission Directorate investments and support long-term exploration needs. Through this program, NASA will initiate activities to develop the technologies necessary for missions beyond low-Earth orbit, including these:

- In-space refueling and fuel storage.
- New orbital transfer stages, power, propulsion, and energy systems.
- Communications and data management.
- Spacesuits and associated life-support systems.

In order to address current mission needs and simultaneously enable future missions, NASA will employ a portfolio approach toward technology development. NASA is assessing its existing technology portfolio to ensure that technology coordination, integration, and planning activities anticipate the long-term needs of the Agency. This portfolio approach will ensure that NASA investments span the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) spectrum from conceptual technology (TRL-1) to proven technology (TRL-9). The Space Technology Program activities will provide a balance between mission-focused and transformational technology investments that enable revolutionary capabilities to meet NASA's goals. This spectrum of technology development activities includes early-stage conceptual studies, ground-based and laboratory testing aimed at demonstrating technical feasibility, relevant-environment flight demonstrations, and technology test beds, including the International Space Station.

To achieve NASA's technology goals, the Agency will sponsor relevant activities in academia and industry, at NASA Centers, and in partnership with other Government agencies. This approach will provide a balance between competed and strategically guided activities. NASA also will use novel approaches to facilitate technology transfer, ensuring that its technologies are infused into commercial applications to promote the creation of new jobs and to advance new products and services that will benefit the Nation and the world.

For more information on the Office of the Chief Technologist, go to [http://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/home/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/home/index.html).