

October 31, 2011

Office of the General Counsel

TO: Directors, NASA Centers

FROM: General Counsel

SUBJECT: Invention of the Year Nominations for 2011

The Office of the General Counsel is pleased to support NASA inventors through the Invention of the Year Awards Program. We offer two competitions: (1) the NASA Commercial Invention of the Year and (2) the NASA Government Invention of the Year.

The Invention of the Year Awards are an important part of the NASA patent program. The eligibility requirements for nominations are enclosed and the selection process will be conducted by a panel convened at Headquarters. The winners will be recognized at a ceremony to be held at the NASA Project Management Challenge in February 2013 and will receive Space Act Awards from the NASA Inventions and Contributions Board.

The eligibility requirements for the NASA Commercial Invention of the Year Award are linked to the National Inventor of the Year event promoted by the Intellectual Property Owners Educational Foundation (IPOEF). Only inventions that were first commercialized to non-government customers during the last four years (2008-2011) will be considered. The NASA Commercial Invention of the Year may be nominated by NASA for the National Award. Later in the year, the National Inventor of the Year is announced by the IPOEF and recognized at a reception in Washington D.C.

The eligibility requirements for the NASA Government Invention of the Year Award are based on the impact the nominations have had on NASA's mission and on other government programs. While commercial sales may exist, the deciding factor for the Government Invention of the Year Award will be Government use.

You are invited to submit a maximum of two nominations, both of which will be considered for each award. Please submit your nominations electronically through your Center's Patent Counsel to the Space Act Awards Liaison Officer, using NASA Form 1329 or 1329A (Space Act Award Application).

Additionally, your Center's Awards Liaison Officer should ensure complete electronic submissions via the NASA Technology Tracking System (NTTS) and the MINX file server by close of business December 19, 2011.

Michael C. Wholley

Enclosure

Directors, NASA Centers:

ARC/Dr. Worden

DFRC/Mr. McBride

GRC/Mr. Lugo

GSFC/Mr. Strain

JPL/Dr. Elachi

JSC/Mr. Coats

KSC/Mr. Cabana

LaRC/Ms. Roe

MSFC/Mr. Lightfoot

SSC/Mr. Scheuermann

Center Chief Technologists

ARC/Mr. Hines

DFRC/Mr. Voracek

GRC/Mr. Ross

GSFC/Mr. Hughes

JPL/Mr. Zmuidzinas

JSC/Mr. Saiz

KSC/Ms. Thompson

LaRC/Mr. Antcliff

MSFC/Mr. Keys

SSC/Ms. Travis

cc:

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ARC/Mr. Stone

GRC/Dr. Braun

GRC/Dr. Meador
GSFC/Mr. Bristow
GSFC/Ms. Cauffman
GSFC/Mr. McComas
GSFC/Dr. Peters-Lidard
JSC/Dr. Arndt
JSC/Mr. James
JSC/Mr. Savely
KSC/Dr. Quinn
KSC/Dr. Youngquist
LaRC/Dr. Pater
LaRC/Ms. Rinsland
LaRC/Mr. Midgett
MSFC/Dr. Bhat
MSFC/Mr. Malone
MSFC/Ms. Wang
MSFC/Mr. Frazier

Counsel to the Board

HQ/Ms. Galus

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GRC/Ms. Stauber
GSFC/Ms. Clarke
JPL/Dr. Jagers
NMO-JPL/Mr. Rosca
JSC/ Ms. Andrews
KSC/ Ms. Dunn
LaRC/Ms. Cooper
MSFC/Mr. Mcmillan
SSC/ Mr. Bryant

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HQ/Ms. Graham
Mr. Borda

Patent Counsels

ARC/Mr. Padilla
NMO-JPL-DFRC/Mr. Homer
GRC/Mr. Earp
GSFC/Mr. Geurts
JSC/ Mr. Fein
KSC-SSC/ Mr. Heald
LaRC/Ms. Edwards
MSFC/ Mr. McGroary