National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001

October 9, 2012

Dr. Steven W. Squyres
Chairman
NASA Advisory Council
Washington, DC 20546

STEVE

Dear Dr. Squyres:

Enclosed is NASA's response to a recommendation from the NASA Advisory Council meeting held July 25-27, 2012, at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Council would like further background on the response. I appreciate the Council's thoughtful consideration leading to the recommendations and welcome its continued findings, recommendations, and advice concerning the U.S. civil space program.

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

Sincerely,

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator

Enclosure:
2012-02-09 (SC-03) Embracing the President's Export Control Reform

NASA Advisory Council Recommendation

Embracing the President's Export Control Reform
2012-02-09 (SC-03)

Recommendation:
The Council recommends that NASA even more fully embrace and support the ongoing President's Export Control Reform (ECR) effort. To ensure that open scientific and international collaboration is enable to the maximum extent possible, the Council further recommends that NASA convene a discussion with the academic and non-profit community on the effects of current export control restrictions on international research and research projects that include foreign nationals.

Major Reasons for the Recommendation:
In carrying out its role as the preeminent space agency in the world, NASA engages in foreign collaborations in many of its programs, projects, and missions. Mutual exchanges of knowledge and know-how in civil space technologies are an important part of these cooperative efforts. Additionally, NASA science is carried out in universities, field centers, non-profits, and other organizations where foreign students and researchers are engaged in order to make these organizations and NASA the best they can be. These critical interactions have been adversely effected and in some cases completely inhibited by the current export control regime.

Consequences of No Action on the Recommendation:
NASA will spend more money, have less robust programs, and miss important leadership opportunities.

NASA Response:
NASA concurs with the recommendation. NASA fully supports the President's Export Control Reform (ECR) effort, and will continue to participate actively in ECR activities targeted towards rationalizing and streamlining the export control lists, pursuing connectivity to the single licensing database (USXPORTS), contributing to relevant Federal regulatory revisions, and participating in interagency discussions.

NASA Export Control Program officials also participate in pre-proposal and proposal conferences attended by universities and research consortia for all NASA Research Announcements (NRA) and Announcement of Opportunity (AO) efforts. Additionally, NASA is working to fulfill the recommendation to convene a discussion with the academic and non-profit community on the effects of export controls on international research by seeking to partner with the Universities Space Research Association (USRA) in conducting a workshop with university and non-profit communities. The contemplated workshop, to occur within the next six to 12 months, would feature speakers from the U.S. Government's export control regulatory agencies, as well as practitioners and representatives from the university and non-profit sectors, for an open discussion and exchange of experiences, perspectives, and regulatory compliance guidance.

Enclosure