CHARTER
of the
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP FOR DETECTING AND MITIGATING THE IMPACT
OF EARTH-BOUND NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND AND NATIONAL SECURITY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Interagency Working Group (IWG) for Detecting and Mitigating the Impact of Earth-bound Near-Earth Objects (NEOs)\(^1\) (DAMIEN) is hereby established by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Committee on Homeland and National Security (CHNS). This Interagency Working Group will generally be referred to as the DAMIEN-IWG.

B. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the DAMIEN-IWG, a working group under the National Science Technology Council (NSTC) Committee for Homeland and National Security (CHNS), is to serve as an inter-agency body to define, coordinate, and oversee goals and programmatic priorities of Federal science and technology activities related to potentially hazardous or Earth-impacting NEOs, including prediction and National Preparedness capabilities.


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\(^1\) Potentially Hazardous NEOs: Non-manmade objects in space (e.g. asteroids or comets) whose orbits around the Sun bring them within approximately 7.5 million kilometers (4.65 million miles) of Earth (making eventual collision a possibility) and with a diameter larger than 140 meters.


\(^3\) *PPD-21: Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience* (2013)
C. Functions

The DAMIEN-IWG, in coordination with other Subcommittees under CHNS; the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS); the Committee on Science (CoS); and other relevant Federal working groups and agencies, shall:

- Assess the status and viability of interagency efforts that enhance and extend scientific research, technical development and operational capability for potentially hazardous or Earth-impacting NEO detection, characterization, and monitoring; modeling tools; advanced warning capabilities, and mitigation approaches;

- Define the types NEO Earth-impact events and assist their incorporation into Federal emergency preparedness, planning, scenarios, training, and exercises;

- Identify and assist interagency efforts to establish Federal and non-Federal stakeholder collaborations to enhance and extend systems for detection, characterization, and monitoring; and networks and data management activities;

- Develop a National NEO Preparedness Strategy (NNPS), within nine months of the signing of this charter. The NNPS will articulate strategic goals for extending and enhancing prediction (detection, characterization, and monitoring) and National Preparedness (protection, mitigation, response, and recovery) for potentially hazardous or Earth-impacting NEOs. The NNPS will also set the approach for establishing reference NEO Earth-impact scenarios;

- Develop a NEO Preparedness Action Plan (NPAP) within fourteen months of the signing of this charter. The NPAP shall establish actions, timelines, and milestones for the implementation of the NNPS. The DAMIEN-IWG or CHNS will review the implementation progress of the plan annually, or as needed; and

- Work with other NSTC bodies to identify and assess efforts to international cooperation in NEO impact threat prediction and preparedness, including strategic communications; the exchange of data, information, models, and research personnel; joint research, planning, and exercises; and creating new or joint programs.

All formal recommendations will be provided to the Co-Chairs of the CHNS and/or the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology.

D. Membership

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented in the DAMIEN-IWG:

- Department of Commerce\(^4\)

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\(^4\) Specifically but not exclusively to include: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of the Interior
- Department of State
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Co-Chair)
- National Science Foundation
- Office of the Director of National Intelligence

The following components of the Executive Office of the President shall also be represented on the DAMIEN-IWG:
- National Security Council
- Office of Management and Budget
- Office of Science and Technology Policy (Co-chair)

Cooperating departments and agencies shall include such other Executive organizations, departments, and agencies as the CHNS Chair and/or DAMIEN-IWG Co-Chairs may designate, as appropriate. The DAMIEN-IWG will also strive to enhance the Federal research and development enterprise by embracing diversity, recognizing that inclusion of a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives is critical to achieving robust intellectual dialogue.

E. Private Sector Interface

The DAMIEN-IWG may seek advice from the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), and will recommend to CHNS and/or the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology the nature of additional non-Federal and private-sector advice needed to accomplish its mission. The DAMIEN-IWG may also interact with and receive ad hoc advice from various non-Federal and private sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

F. Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Co-chairs of CHNS prior to its expiration, the DAMIEN-IWG shall terminate no later than March 31, 2017.

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5 Specifically but not exclusively to include: Department of the Air Force, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and United States Strategic Command
6 Specifically but not exclusively to include: National Nuclear Security Administration
7 Specifically but not exclusively to include: Federal Emergency Management Agency
8 Specifically but not exclusively to include: United States Geological Survey
9 The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended, does not explicitly define “private-sector,” but the phrase is generally understood to include individuals or entities outside the Federal government such as, but not limited to, the following: non-Federal sources, academia, State, local or Tribal governments, individual citizens, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, international bodies.
G. Determination

I hereby determine that the establishment of the Interagency Working Group for Detecting and Mitigating the Impact of Earth-bound NEOs is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:

Steve Fetter
Co-chair, Committee on Homeland and National Security, and Principal Assistant Director for Energy and Environment Division, Office of Science and Technology Policy

Stephen P. Welby
Co-chair, Committee on Homeland and National Security, and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Department of Defense

Dr. Reginald Brothers
Co-chair, Committee on Homeland and National Security, and Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security

9/23/16
Date

2/3/2016
Date

3/11/16
Date