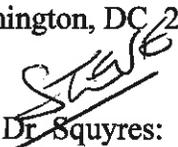


National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Office of the Administrator  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



November 19, 2013

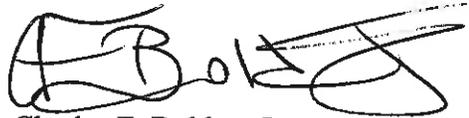
Dr. Steven W. Squyres  
Chairman  
NASA Advisory Council  
Washington, DC 20546

  
Dear Dr. Squyres:

Enclosed is NASA's response to a recommendation from the NASA Advisory Council meeting held July 31 - August 1, 2013, at NASA Headquarters. 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:

2013-02-10 (TIC-01)  
Commitment to Sustain and Grow NASA Space Technology Programs

## **NASA Advisory Council Recommendation**

### **Commitment to Sustain and Grow NASA Space Technology Programs 2013-02-10 (TIC-01)**

#### **Recommendation:**

The Council recommends that NASA continue its commitment to sustain and grow the Agency's space technology programs to enable future NASA missions and to maintain U.S. technical leadership in space.

#### **Major Reasons for Proposing the Recommendation:**

The missions we want to fly tomorrow will be enabled by technology investments made today. The NASA technology shelf has been depleted over the last decade due to a lack of investment. NASA has begun to correct this over the last three years with the formation of the Office of Chief Technologist (OCT) and the Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD). This has been supported by senior government decision-makers in the Agency and within the Administration. We believe sequestration poses a major threat to the vitality of NASA's space technology programs.

#### **Consequences of No Action on the Proposed Recommendation:**

The combination of the consolidation of the Agency's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) activities in STMD, coupled with across the board reductions, could result in a disproportionate cut in the STMD's discretionary technology program. In order to accommodate budget reductions, STMD would be forced to reduce its key technology demonstration missions in support of the Agency's priorities.

#### **NASA Response:**

NASA concurs with the recommendation to continue its commitment to sustain and grow the Agency's space technology programs to enable future NASA missions and to maintain U.S. technical leadership in space. In this time of constrained Federal budgets, we will commit to supporting the Agency's technology priorities. Furthermore, NASA will continue the strategy to increase the impact of the Space Technology Mission Directorate by ensuring that it takes on high-impact, crosscutting technology development that is tightly coordinated with NASA customers, whether it is a "push" or "pull" activity. The keys to this growth are close alignment of technology priorities with the Agency's strategic priorities, undertaking collaborations with other Government agencies, and exploiting public-private partnerships whenever possible.