

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 19, 2014

Reply to Attn of: Office of the Chief Technologist

TO: Officials-in-Charge of Headquarters Offices, Directors, NASA Centers

FROM: Director Strategic Integration, Office of the Chief Technologist

SUBJECT: Integrated Data Call for Assessment of Agency Technology Investments and Public Release of TechPort

In response to multiple requests for information about NASA's technology programs and projects and the pending public release of a portion of the information in the Technology Portfolio System (TechPort), the Office of the Chief Technologist (OCT) is coordinating an integrated data call that updates information in TechPort and highlights the intended use of that information.

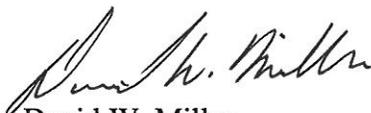
You are requested to ensure that all technology programs and projects funded by your Mission Directorate, Office, or Center have complete and correct information in TechPort by April 23, 2014.

Released in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, TechPort is a web-based software system located at: <https://techport.nasa.gov>. TechPort provides the NASA community with a single, integrated, comprehensive resource for locating information about NASA-funded technologies. To date, more than 2,500 NASA professionals have conducted searches, studies, and assessments of NASA's technology programs and projects using TechPort. Additionally, using the report generation capability, NASA professionals have created more than 1900 reports since October 2013.

Today, TechPort is being used as one of the Agency's authoritative data sources for integrated information about NASA technology programs and projects. This is consistent with the recommendations of the Project Tracking and Reporting Team recommendations presented to the Agency Program Management Council in 2013. The original study (also known as the Obenschain study) found that programs, projects, and centers are inundated with data calls from various levels of management. Follow-on efforts identified efficiencies that could be gained by developing authoritative data sources and providing access to all parties who need the data contained therein. NASA's use of TechPort reduces the number of data requests by Offices and Mission Directorates, enables easier information sharing and data mining, ensures greater consistency of data used for all levels of analytical study, and saves time by facilitating data validation and report generation.

In late spring of FY 2014, a portion of the data in TechPort will be made public, consistent with NASA's performance goals, the Strategic Space Technology Investment Plan, and recommendations from the National Research Council. Additionally, the public release of TechPort information will facilitate NASA compliance with the Executive Order – *Making Open and Machine Readable the New Default for Government Information* (May 9, 2013), and the *Open Data Policy* (Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-13-13). For more information about TechPort, please see the attachment.

If you have questions about this data call, or need assistance gaining access to TechPort, please feel free to contact Faith Chandler at [Faith.T.Chandler@nasa.gov](mailto:Faith.T.Chandler@nasa.gov). Additionally, you may contact one of TechPort's Center Representatives listed in the attachment.



David W. Miller  
Chief Technologist

Enclosures

**Attachment:  
About TechPort**

The Technology Portfolio System (TechPort) is a web-based software system that provides the NASA community with a single, integrated, comprehensive resource for locating information about NASA-funded technologies. It enables all of NASA's Mission Directorates, Centers, and facilities to share information in a standard searchable format about their existing technology projects. Users can find a variety of information about technologies, such as descriptions, images, technology areas (associated with the Space Technology Roadmap), funding organizations, and locations where work is being performed.

TechPort, as a centralized technology portfolio tracking and analysis system, provides a number of advantages ("value adds"). In particular, TechPort:

- Affords easy access to technology information, potentially reducing multiple requests to program/project staff
- Accommodates central coordination of data requests
- Saves money. Each Mission Directorate, Office, and Center does not have to pay for development, management, and operation of their own unique system
- Saves time by facilitating data validation and report generation
- Provides easier information sharing and data mining
- Facilitates real-time data validation from one source
- Improves consistency of data used for all levels of analytical study
- Enables comprehensive portfolio strategy development, investment prioritization, and benefit analysis
- Supports integrated NASA technology portfolio decision-making
- Allows other government entities and the public to have insight into NASA technology investments when it is released to the public in FY 2014

TechPort was developed in response to the 2010 Authorization Act, which called for a renewed investment in technology and for NASA to align Mission Directorate technology investments to increase capabilities, lower mission costs, and support long-term needs. The Authorization Act was followed by a request from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to create an Agency-wide integrated portfolio database that enabled technology projects to be tracked and analyzed, thereby optimizing portfolio alignment. The goal was to capture, track, and assess the entire Agency's technology portfolio, and share information about the Agency's investment to the public. This supports the Administration's policy on transparency in the U.S. Government, and will give Congress, other agencies, and the public the ability to see how NASA is investing in technology and strategically aligning with national priorities and needs.

TechPort was released (in September 2012) to serve a variety of purposes. It enables NASA to document, track, and analyze the Agency's technology portfolio. It is equipped with features that allow users to efficiently search technology projects, identify technology gaps, update assessments, and generate comprehensive technology reports. It enables managers to verify that there are technology investments in all critical technology areas, at all technology readiness levels, and that technologies are consistent with NASA's Strategic Technology Investment Plan. It also provides a mechanism by which to share information about technology investments with NASA's professionals, providing them insight into



potential technology gaps (research and development opportunities) and potential development partners.

For example, TechPort allows NASA users to:

- **Download** high quality reports and data sheets on a given technology, which can be used for project reporting
- **Assess** technology gaps within the portfolio by searching through the breadth of projects underway across the Agency
- Quickly **find** projects in adjacent or related areas to a technology in development
- Easily **share** pictures, videos, reports, and presentations relating to NASA's projects
- **Identify** technology projects which would benefit from testing on the International Space Station
- Easily **update** NASA's system of record when a project is extended or achieves a milestone
- **Inform** researchers at different Centers and facilities of technology developments underway throughout the Agency

Public uses of TechPort could include:

- Students **learning** about NASA's current technology development activities and searching for technology projects in a specific technology area
- Members of industry **exploring** areas of interest and finding opportunities for synergy and potential partnership with existing NASA projects. For more mature programs and projects, determining the impact of the technologies and gaining access to publications, data, and links to associated technology transfer opportunities
- Policy makers **understanding** the return on investment for NASA's technology portfolio

### Data Requested

The purpose of this data call is to complete the data fields in TechPort for each of the Agency's technology programs, projects, and elements. Required fields include project management information, a project description, information about the potential use, benefit and maturity of technologies, information about where the work is performed, who performs the work and collaborations with government and industry. Additionally, cost and schedule information will be collected. This information is very important for internal purposes, to inform NASA's ability to better estimate the cost and schedule of future technology development activities. In addition to the required fields, TechPort provides a venue for sharing interesting and insightful information about NASA's technology development projects with the public.

### Who Can Enter Data

Each organization that funds the development of technology (Mission Directorate, Office, and Center) has selected a person(s) that serves as the permission moderator for TechPort. The permission moderator determines and sets data access permissions for viewing and editing sensitive data. Individuals in the organization can request to be a data editor or approver from the permission moderator. These requests are made within TechPort. See the TechPort Center Representatives below for more information on a specific program or project.



### How to Submit Data

- Go to <https://techport.nasa.gov>. This URL is only available from behind the NASA firewall.
- Use your Agency user ID and password to log in through NASA's single sign-on LaunchPad system.
- There are different permissions for accessing and editing the data in TechPort, and this will control your ability to edit information for your program, project, or element within the system.
- Access instructions on how to navigate TechPort and use different features are available within TechPort.

For questions on accessing or using TechPort, you can call the NASA Enterprise Service Desk at 1-877-677-2123 for immediate assistance, or email [nasa-esd@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:nasa-esd@mail.nasa.gov).



## Contacts

To get assistance on how to enter data, use the system, or how TechPort relates to you, reach out to the TechPort POC at your Center.

Center	Name	Phone	Email
<b>Ames Research Center</b>	Ingrid Desilvestre	650.604.6202	<a href="mailto:Ingrid.desilvestre@nasa.gov">Ingrid.desilvestre@nasa.gov</a>
<b>Armstrong Flight Research Center</b>	David Voracek	661.276.2463	<a href="mailto:David.f.voracek@nasa.gov">David.f.voracek@nasa.gov</a>
<b>Glenn Research Center</b>	Harvey Schabes	216.433.5309	<a href="mailto:Harvey.l.schabes@nasa.gov">Harvey.l.schabes@nasa.gov</a>
	Lynn Boukalik	216.433.9701	<a href="mailto:Lynn.h.boukalik@nasa.gov">Lynn.h.boukalik@nasa.gov</a>
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	Yvette Oliva-Buisson (Contractor)	321-867-0411	<a href="mailto:Yvette.j.oliva-buisson@nasa.gov">Yvette.j.oliva-buisson@nasa.gov</a>
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<b>Stennis Space Center</b>	John Lansaw (Contractor)	228.688.1962	<a href="mailto:John.lansaw-1@nasa.gov">John.lansaw-1@nasa.gov</a>

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- Executive Director, Headquarters Operations/Mr. Henn
- Executive Director, NSSC/Ms. Dubuisson (Acting)

## **Directors, NASA Centers**

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Armstrong Flight Research Center/Mr. McBride  
Glenn Research Center/Mr. Free  
Goddard Space Flight Center/Mr. Scolese  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory/Dr. Elachi  
Johnson Space Center/Dr. Ochoa  
Kennedy Space Center/Mr. Cabana  
Langley Research Center/Mr. Jurczyk (Acting)  
Marshall Space Flight Center/Mr. Scheuermann  
Stennis Space Center/Dr. Gilbrech

cc:

Executive Secretariat/Mr. Box  
Office of the Administrator/Ms. Manuel  
Office of the Administrator/Ms. McNair  
Office of the Administrator/Ms. McCannon  
Office of the Deputy Administrator/Ms. Ross  
Office of the Deputy Administrator/Ms. McWilliams  
Office of the Deputy Administrator/Ms. Nelson  
Office of the Associate Administrator/Ms. Wijdoogen  
Office of Agency Council Staff/Mr. McMurry  
Office of the Chief Engineer/Mr. Bell