

**Tracking Number: 2010-04-06 (EC-02)**

**Invite International Partners to Contribute to all Aspects of the Exploration Architecture**

**NASA Recommendation:**

The NAC recommends that NASA pursue a policy that, considering the U.S. space industrial base and broad national security interests, invites potential partners to contribute to all aspects of the exploration architecture. In the exceptional case, where appropriate, partnerships on the critical path elements of the deep space transportation system should be considered.

**NASA Response:**

NASA concurs with the recommendation. NASA has established a number of mechanisms and processes to ensure the broadest engagement with potential international partners in human and robotic exploration. A variety of bilateral activities with multiple key space agencies have taken place or are ongoing, including basic information exchange, joint architecture studies and international collaboration involving robotic analogue, and flight precursor mission cooperation. In parallel, NASA is heavily engaged through the 14-agency International Space Exploration Coordination Group (ISECG) in a number of activities that are laying the groundwork for broad space exploration cooperation. Through ISECG, NASA led a multilateral 18-month study which culminated in the June 2010 release of a global lunar reference architecture. NASA is currently co-leading with the European Space Agency the development of a Global Exploration Roadmap which is intended to assist individual space agencies in planning for collaborative exploration opportunities. We feel that these processes and tools are well suited to inform both NASA and the international community of the most advantageous partnership opportunities, including potentially significant critical path contributions.