

NAC Tracking Number 2010-04-05 (EC-01)
Technology Development Collaboration

NASA Advisory Council Recommendation:

NASA should seek opportunities to collaborate on technology development with the Space leaders at the Department of Defense (DoD), the Air Force, and other agencies. In particular, the Administrator should brief the DoD "Partnership Council" [Secretary of the Air Force; Commander of Air Force Space Command; Commander of Strategic Command; and Director of the National Reconnaissance Office] on NASA's technology needs for space exploration and discuss opportunities to co-invest in complementary technology developments that can satisfy the common goals of reliable, affordable access to and thru space.

NASA Response:

NASA concurs with this recommendation.

Consistent with the guidance of the National Space Policy, Presidential Policy Directive-4, NASA's senior leadership regularly coordinates with senior leaders of the national security space community to understand mutual requirements and capabilities and to explore opportunities for partnership. At a forthcoming Space Industrial Base Council meeting, the Associate Administrator will address general opportunities for technology collaboration. He additionally participates in meetings with the Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for Space Programs and the Principal Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) to discuss modernization issues affecting evolved expendable launch vehicles, propulsion, and 21st century range operations where collaboration may prove beneficial.

Related discussions are also conducted at regular meetings at the Principals' level with the Secretary of the Air Force, the NASA Administrator, and the Director of the NRO. The last such meeting was on January 14, 2011, and included a review of exploration capabilities and opportunities for technology-related collaboration. The NASA Administrator also participates in other venues, including the Space Working Dinner with the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where such partnership opportunities and technology investments are further explored.

Enclosure