



**FY 2020 Conference Report to the Inspector General**

**NASA Sponsored Conferences with Agency Spend of \$100,000 or More**

**October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020**

## **FY 2020 Conference Report to the Office of the Inspector General for NASA**

**Overview:** In accordance with The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Pub. L. 114-113, NASA is required to submit an annual report to the OIG regarding the costs and contracting procedures related to each NASA-sponsored conference where the Agency-wide cost was \$100,000 or more.

This report provides a summary of conference activities by NASA in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. It includes a brief overview of each conference's purpose to highlight the valuable role that conferences play in NASA's mission, such as in key dissemination and exchange of cutting edge scientific and technological knowledge.

The Space Act of 1958 requires NASA to "provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning its activities and the results thereof." Conferences provide an important vehicle for accomplishing this mandate. NASA scientists, engineers and leaders present scientific and technical papers and participate in interchanges on leading-edge research and technology with peers in the Federal Government, academia, the science community, the aeronautics and aerospace industries and international partners. NASA attended and sponsored conferences address a broad and diverse range of scientific and engineering challenges faced in carrying out its missions, including Earth science research, advanced aeronautics and the cutting-edge technologies needed for both current and planned robotic and human space flight programs.

In addition to facilitating the dissemination and advancement of scientific research, conferences also serve as a cost-effective way for NASA to carry out other mission-related purposes, such as educational outreach and program development, planning and information gathering. For example, conferences on program management provide opportunities for examination of current trends in aerospace project and engineering management; offering forums for the exchange and dissemination of best practices, new ideas, and training for managers across NASA to help the Agency cost-effectively meet the toughest challenges in space exploration today.

**FY 2020 >\$100k Sponsored Conference Summary:** This report includes conferences that are agency sponsored with total costs at or exceeding \$100,000. NASA participated in 5 conferences in FY 2020 for which it sponsored and spent \$100,000 or more. Total combined spend for the 5 conferences was approximately \$1.047M. NASA's combined attendance at all 5 conferences was 470 civil servant and contractor employees.

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
<b>35th Space Symposium 2019 - 34044-19</b>	Colorado Springs, Colorado	4/8/2019	04/11/19	\$290,810	106
<p><b>Web site Link</b> <a href="https://www.spacesymposium.org/about/save-date">https://www.spacesymposium.org/about/save-date</a></p> <p><b>This conference occurred in Qtr4 FY19 reporting period – per chg in policy no requirement to track in NCTS</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Space Symposium attendees consistently represent all sectors of the space community from multiple spacefaring nations: space agencies; commercial space businesses and associated subcontractors; military, national security and intelligence organizations; cyber security organizations; federal and state government agencies and organizations; research and development facilities; think tanks; educational institutions; space entrepreneurs and private space travel providers; businesses engaged in adapting, manufacturing or selling space technologies for commercial use; and media that inspire and educate the general public about space. Be sure to save the date for next year's Space Symposium:</p> <p><b>Detailed Costs:</b></p> <p>Sponsorship \$0; Travel: \$ 218,865; Registration: \$ 71,945; Other Costs \$ 0</p>					

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
<b>2019 Office of General Counsel (OGC) Conference- 38031-19</b>	Houston, TX	04/22/19	04/26/19	\$129,690	94
<p><b>Web site Link:</b></p> <p><b>This conference occurred in Qtr4 FY19 reporting period – per chg in policy no requirement to track in NCTS</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The NASA Office of General Counsel (OGC) provides functional leadership relevant to legal advocacy, advice, services and issues related to all aspects of NASA activities for NASA Associate General Counsel, Center Chief and Patent Counsel in support of the Administrator, Center Directors and Programs. The NASA OGC annual meeting, attended by legal leadership and staff attorneys, provides a venue for the free exchange of legal concepts, ideas and strategies on current issues to ensure legal advocacy that supports NASA goals and mission and to enable program and institutional capabilities to conduct Agency aeronautics and space activities.</p> <p><b>Detailed Costs:</b></p> <p>Sponsorship \$0; Travel \$ 129,690; Registration \$ 0; Other Costs \$ 0</p>					

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
<b>International Space Station Research and Development - ISS R&amp;D Conference 2019-36908-19</b>	Houston, TX	7/29/2019	8/1/2019	\$322,570	149
<p>Web site Link: <a href="https://www.issconference.org/">https://www.issconference.org/</a></p> <p><u>This was tracked as exception to policy and</u>  This conference occurred in Qtr4 FY19 reporting period – per chg in policy no requirement to track in NCTS</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The ISS R&amp;D Conference directly supports NASA's Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives as stated below. The research and technology demonstrations performed on ISS support NASA's understanding of physical and biological responses to spaceflight, the development of a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) commercial market with continuous human presence, technology demonstrations that are critical to deep space exploration as well as the enabling space access and services through cargo transportation and ISS utilization.</p> <p><b>Detailed Costs:</b></p> <p>Sponsorship \$0; Travel \$ 239,670; Registration \$ 82,900; Other Costs \$ 0</p>					

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
<b>2019 NASA Cost &amp; Schedule Symposium-38811-19 .</b>	Houston, TX	08/13/19	08/15/19	\$172,776	98
<p>Web site Link: <a href="https://www.nasa.gov/offices/ocfo/cost_symposium">https://www.nasa.gov/offices/ocfo/cost_symposium</a></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> This conference is essential to maintaining and improving the estimating and analysis functions across the NASA community. The NASA cost and schedule analysis community includes all Centers as well as HQ and represents an essential function to the agency. The NASA Cost and Schedule Symposium advances NASA's core mission by providing a professional forum for agency analysts to present and learn results of cost research, and participate in training sessions on methods and tools to support important agency initiatives such as conducting Joint Confidence Level (JCL) analyses. Participation in the Symposium will help strengthen individual capabilities as well as the overall cost analysis community. Agency estimators and analysts contribute to NASA's core mission by providing high quality and robust analysis to Programs/Projects, Directorates, and agency decision makers. This analysis is a key part of the lifecycle review process of all Programs/Projects and also enables decision makers to make fully informed decisions.</p> <p><b>Detailed Costs:</b></p> <p>Sponsorship \$0; Travel \$ 139,776; Registration \$ 0; Other Costs \$33,000</p>					

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
<b>4th COSPAR Symposium- 37773-20 .</b>	Herzliyam, Israel	11/04/19	11/08/19	\$130,841	23
<p>Web site Link: <a href="http://www.cospar2019.org/">http://www.cospar2019.org/</a></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> A NASA presence at the 4th COSPAR Symposium is entirely consistent with NASA's Vision and Mission. NASA finds itself at the forefront of the development of small satellite missions for Space and Earth Science, and the COSPAR Symposium is an excellent opportunity to share that knowledge with humanity, particularly participants from developing countries.</p> <p><b>Detailed Costs:</b></p> <p>Sponsorship \$0; Travel \$ 121,321 Registration \$ 9,520; Other Costs \$0</p>					