NASA Travel for Conferences and Other Non-Essential Purposes

March 22, 2025– April 15, 2025

FY 2025 Travel for Conferences and Other Non-Essential Purposes

Overview: In accordance with the Executive Order on Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Cost Efficiency Initiative, dated February 26, 2025, our agency is establishing procedures to enhance accountability for travel expenditures. Specifically aligning with Section 2(e), we are utilizing a system to centrally record approvals and require written justifications for federally funded travel designated for conferences or other non-essential purposes, ensuring compliance with the order's mandate for increased transparency and responsible use of public funds.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Executive Order's reporting mandates, justifications for all approved non-essential travel, including conferences, occurring between March 22, 2025, and April 15, 2025, have been collected. This compilation will form part of the agency's monthly informational report submitted to the Administrator. Subsequently, these justifications will be prepared for public posting, adhering to the order's transparency goals, unless prohibited by law or covered by an exemption granted by the Agency Head.

FY 2025 Travel for Conferences and Other Non-Essential Purposes

Conference Name	Justification:
2025 BIS Complying with US Export Controls Seminar	This seminar is required and considered essential for Export Control training and ensure we are complying with US Export Control.
34th Aerospace Testing Seminar	To attend the Aerospace Testing Seminar (ATS) as a direct field acoustic testing (DFAT) topic co-presenter, of the paper titled "Advancements and Current Status of Direct Field Acoustic (DFA) Testing Since Inception". Additionally, be a DFAT seminar participant, NASA DFAT Standard 7010 revision discipline lead which is mission essential, contributing specifically to meeting and exceeding the NASA Loads & Dynamics TF expectations and towards ensuring NASA mission success.
40th Space Symposium	Space Symposium, held at the Broadmoor and Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA, has brought together space leaders from around the world to discuss, address, and plan for the future of space since the inaugural event in 1984. Attendees at that original event numbered 250 space enthusiasts. Space Symposium has become widely known as the premier U.S. space policy and program forum and as the must-attend event for information and interaction among all sectors of space. Space Symposium attendees consistently represent all sectors of the space ecosystem 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. Bringing these groups together in one place provides a unique opportunity to examine space issues from multiple perspectives, to promote dialogue, and to focus attention on critical space issues. A future-oriented agenda, lively and productive networking discussions, global representation, exhibits showcasing the latest in space technology - these components create an exhilarating, dynamic, and forward-thinking environment. Year after year, Space Symposium maintains its reputation as the must-attend space industry event.
Computers in Libraries	Systems Administrator for the NASA Enterprise library systems and software is leading agency migration to new system. Conference allows employee the opportunity of not only meeting in person with others who have done such a migration and learning from their expertise and their lessons learned, but also to learn about any new functionality of the system. Researchers across the agency rely on these systems to access critical data to complete mission work.
eMerge Americas	Discuss the intersection of space commercialization and healthcare innovation in these critical sectors and exploore our expertise in these areas.
2025 FSW Workshop - 18th Annual Flight Software Workshop	Conference attendance is considered mission essential due to the content scheduled to be discussed which is essential information for our subject matter experts who work flight software for human spaceflight missions. The content to be shared during the workshop, in addition to the conversations to be held with the attendees will enable our employees to stay current on Core Flight Software (cFS) and the use of Real-Time Executive for Multiprocessor Systems (RTEMS) that are relevant to the mission flight software tasks they perform.
American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting 2025	The American Association of Geographers is a non-profit scientific and educational society aimed at advancing the understanding, study, and importance of geography and related fields. The American Association of Geographers 2025 Annual Meeting will bring together geographers of many perspectives and specialties, with individuals from the private sector, state, local & federal government, and academia, to learn from Detroit, envisioning solutions for the region it is part of and for places around the world. The NASA Disasters Response Coordination System and DEVELOP Program will serve as official NASA representatives at the meeting and focus on increasing awareness of, building capacity in, and promoting the use of NASA Earth observations, as well as building relationships with potential partners and end users.
Rapid+TCT	Attending the Additive Manufacturing (AM) Training and completing the Certified Additive Manufacturing Fundamentals (CAMF) Exam at RAPID + TCT is a critical step in solidifying expertise in advanced manufacturing techniques relevant to aerospace materials research. This training provides direct, hands-on instruction in cutting-edge AM processes, material properties, and optimization strategies essential for evaluating material performance in extreme environments. NASA's capabilities in advanced material solutions for space exploration.
Spacecraft Anomalies and Failures Workshop (SCAF) 2025	NASA and NRO will jointly host the Spacecraft Anomalies and Failures (SCAF) Workshop with the goal of bringing together government, industry, academia, allies, and international partners to share the critical role of analysis, trends, and lessons learned from anomalies and failures to prevent them from reoccurring. This workshop provides the unique experience to learn from leading experts on how to more effectively design, operate, protect, and defend space, ground, and communication systems.
The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society 2025 (TMS 2025)	This TMS annual conference is considered the premier materials meeting and exhibition that brings together engineers, scientists, business leaders, and other professionals in the minerals, metals, and materials fields for a comprehensive, cross-disciplinary exchange of technical knowledge. Further this conference provides an excellent opportunity for individuals in the materials and structures (M&S) community to stay current on the state-of-art in M&S. Similarly, participation in educational activities as defined under 5 U.S.C. § 4101(4) will directly impact NASA attendees performance and assist in achieving NASA's mission and performance goals relative to TTT and NASA's aeronautical strategic thrusts 2,3 and 4. This conference is also considered essential since under 51 USC§20112(a) 3 NASA is directed to provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning its activities and the results thereof.
2025 AIAA Region II Student Conference	The 2025 AIAA Region II Student Conference being held April 3-4 in Greensboro, North Carolina provides NASA and Orion with a unique opportunity to interact with some of the pre-eminent academic labs studying aerothermodynamics, providing the opportunity to help advance the state of the art in areas relevant to Orion Aerothermodynamics. Industry collaborators supporting Orion heatshield analysis will also be attending and this will provide opportunities to discuss work status in support of Artemis 2, as well as discuss program, industry, academic partnerships that will advance the state of the discipline critical to the advancement of the mission essential work in support of Orion. Participating also supports NASA's mission by fostering STEM outreach, mentorship, and workforce development. As a NASA engineer, participation enables knowledge sharing, collaboration with future aerospace leaders, and recruitment of top talent to sustain innovation in the field. This engagement directly contributes to advancing NASA's technical excellence and leadership in aerospace.
American Chemical Society (ACS) Spring Meeting 2025	Chair of the ACS Astrochemistry Subdivision, and in addition to chair duties, is part of the presentation: Formation of insoluble organic materials from astrophysically relevant soluble organic materials. Attendance is very important for NASAs continued leadership in the field. This work is relevant to various NASA missions, but specifically OSIRIS-REx and JWST data.
Exploring the Abiotic Background for Life Detection	NASA ARC civil servants are the primary organizers of this meeting that is aimed to understand the 'abiotic background' in ocean worlds, such as Europa and Enceladus, by engaging experts from various fields including prebiotic chemistry, origin of life, and astrochemistry. Not being present at this meeting would prevent active participation from NASA civil servants in the scheduled discussions that will lead to the critical information: state of knowledge, description, and evaluation of past, current, and upcoming missions with life detection components, scientific and technological recommendation for future missions.
Grand Challenges for the Convergence of Computational and Citizen Science Research	Citizen Science and crowdsourcing have matured as approaches to carrying out scientific research across a wide range of disciplines. At the same time, revolutionary strides have been made in machine learning and artificial intelligence (ML/AI) technologies. This small, invitation-only workshop will examine how best to combine the complementary strengths of human and machine intelligences. Attending as the only representative of NASA at this small workshop to serve as a discussion leader and co-organizer, to help develop a roadmap for future developments in this area that will help NASA citizen science continue to serve U.S. citizens, inspire future leaders, and further demonstrate U.S. leadership in space science.
HPC User Forum Spring 2025	NASA Ames is the agency lead in supercomputing, quantum technologies and related areas such as machine learning, artificial intelligence, autonomy, and human-systems integration. As the Director of the organization that manages all of this technical domains, it is imperative that NASA work is highlighted at the HPC User Forum. The traveler will present the latest updates in NASA work in supercomputing, machine learning, and quantum computing both as an invited panelist and as a panelist on "New Directions in Combining HPC with Quantum Computing." Travel also the Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee. The travel will be covered using tech capability funds.

Conference Name	Justification:
JSC Small Business Council Spring Conference 2025	The JSC Small Business Council Event is a critical engagement opportunity for the NASA Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) to advance its mission of fostering small business participation in government contracting and procurement opportunities. Attending this conference is essential to providing a platform to connect with small businesses, industry leaders, and stakeholders, ensuring they are aware of and can access federal contracting opportunities. This aligns with OSBPs mission to promote economic growth. The conference will feature discussions on the latest procurement policies, small business regulations, and best practices, equipping OSBP with the necessary insights to support compliance and effective program implementation. OSBP representatives will have the opportunity to collaborate with other federal agencies, prime contractors, and advocacy groups, fostering partnerships that enhance small business participation in government procurement. Federal small business programs operate under strict policy requirements and performance metrics. Participation in this conference directly supports OSBPs mandate to educate, advocate, and facilitate small business utilization in federal contracting (15 U.S.C. §644(k)(13)). By attending this event, OSBP can continue to drive small business success and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of government procurement processes. This directly supports the agency's mission, helps fill agency supply chain gaps, and broader economic and national security objectives.
Machine learning, Automation, Robotics, and Space (MARS) - Sponsored Travel -	The Machine learning, Automation, Robotics, and Space (MARS) conference aims to present and discuss potentially revolutionary ideas in the listed fields. It brings together world-class experts from the academia (including several Nobel laureates), industry, and government agencies. It is beneficial for NASA to participate in it order to spread awareness of its developments, enabling strategic partnerships and technology infusion into commercial ventures. NASA has sent representatives to MARS in the previous years, including to present the Ames-led VIPER mission to identify and characterize deposits of valuable volatile materials near the South Pole of the Moon.
National Science Teachers Association	Supporting the NASA exhibit at the NSTA National Conference is mission critical to support NASA's mission of inspiring the public. Stafing the NASA exhibit at NSTA is an eficient way to reach thousands of teachers and educators from across the country and share the latest NASA science, technology, and exploration impacts. Not only does this exhibit further NASA's mission statement to inspire, an exhibit at NSTA lets NASA staff directly engage with a critical element of the STEM workforce development pipeline: educators. These educators come from every corner of our great nation and help us disseminate NASA to the widest reach possible - helping NASA serve all, for the benefit of humanity.
9th European Conference on Space Debris	The ESA Space Debris Conference will improve NASA's capability to mitigate risks from orbital debris for the safe operations of current and future NASA human spaceflight and robotic missions. It will enhance NASA's collaborations with the international space community to address the orbital debris problem. The European Space Debris Conference offers a chance to discuss key issues relating to the mitigation and protection from orbital debris with an international audience, only once every two-years. NASA has directives to address the issue of the growing orbital debris population, which are detailed in NPR 8715.6E. and states the need to establish and maintain collaborations with our international colleagues for sharing the latest data on orbital debris populations and the ever-changing orbital environment. This directive details the implementation of NATIONAL SPACE POLICY of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA to "-preserve the space environment for responsible, peaceful, and safe use, and with a focus on minimizing space debris-". As a world leader in space exploration, participation in this conference directly aligns with NASA's goal and the National space Policy to extend and sustain human activities across the solar system, with assessing the risk to human space activities via measurements, modeling, mitigation, and impact testing to assess spacecraft shielding.
Celebrating 20 years of Swift Discoveries	When the Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory was launched on November 20, 2004, its prime objective was to chase Gamma-Ray Bursts. Since then, the mission has far exceeded its original scientific goals. Swift discovered the first afterglows and host galaxies of short-hard GRBs, and a growing sample of events from the local Universe to the epoch of reionization, providing arcsecond positions, light curves, and spectra for more than 1,500 events. Over time, Swift has become an unequalled Target of Opportunity machine for the astronomical community, thanks to a unique combination of sensitive instrumentation and operational flexibility that provides unprecedented observational capabilities: rapid response coupled with multi-wavelength monitoring of any class of transient/variable object. After almost 20 years of operations, we think it a fitting occasion to revisit Swift's achievements and to put our mission in the context of the rapidly evolving fields of time-domain and multi-messenger astrophysics. Therefore, we are organizing the meeting "Celebrating 20 years of Swift Discoveries", to be held on March 24-28, 2025, in Florence, Italy, at the Firenze Fiera conference center.
CEOS SIT-40	The Strategic Integration Team is one of three annual technical meetings of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS; Website: https://ceos.org/), a group of global space agencies that operate Earth remote sensing satellites, of which NASA, NOAA, and USGS are members. At this technical meeting, CEOS member Agencies work together to launch multi-agency missions and combine data from missions operated by more than 30 national space agencies resulting in more cost-effective global observations for NASA. NASAs Earth Science Division operates more than 25 satellites in orbit and funds opportunities to put these data to use for economic and scientific benefit. The CEOS community collectively operates more than 190 active satellites. NASA should assume a leadership role in a cooperative international Earth observations and research effort, NASA Authorization Act of 2008, P. L. 110-422, Sec. 2(5). NASA leadership and investment in CEOS serve as a force multiplier towards accomplishing Earth Science strategic mission objectives through access to increased volumes of open satellite data, ensuring global interoperability with existing domestic systems, and influencing future technology directions. Cooperation with other space agencies creates opportunities to partner and launch multi-agency Earth observation satellite missions and combine data from missions resulting in more cost-effective global observations for NASA. NASA, NOAA and USGS each take turns in leadership roles on a geographical rotation. NASA is currently serving a leadership commitment as the Strategic Implementation Team Vice Chair (2024-2025) followed by serving as Strategic Implementation Team Chair (2026-2027). Lack of NASA attendance and leadership at strategic CEOS meetings risks a reduction of influence in promoting solutions that close observational gaps, strengthen U.S. competitiveness, and drive innovation in both the public and private sectors. Through NASA activities at CEOS in developing approaches for analysis ready data, US commercial remote sensing companies have expanded market access globally.
IAA/IAF	The conference was disapproved the evening of Friday, March 21st. The travelers departed on Sunday, March 23rd, they did not see the disapproval Friday evening prior to departing for the trip; additional controls have been put into place to mitigate possibilities of this occuring in the future.

Conference Name	Justification:
International Conference on Fan Noise, Aerodynamics, Applications and Systems	Fan 2025, International Conference on Fan Noise, Aerodynamics, Applications and Systems is essential because it directly enables human space flight safety of personnel and property. Fan engineering experts at the conference will discuss the design, analysis, manufacturing and testing of high-performance fans for futuristic spacecraft ventilation systems and aircraft propulsion systems.
43rd Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) Meeting	IADC is mission essential as no virtual option is available and per NPR 8715.6E roles and responsibilities, specifically to NPR 8715.6E 2.1.1.f and 2.1.2.f, and referenced in NPD 1000.3 NPD 1000.3F, "The NASA Organization, is responsible for advising the Administrator and other senior officials on matters related to risk, safety, and mission success" through international orbital debris mitigation guidelines though international fora such as IADC. As defined in the IADC Terms of Reference, NASA is one of the founding space member agencies since 1993 and as such participation is mission essential to the duties of NASA to support this annual meeting to exchange information on space debris research activities between members, to facilitate opportunities for cooperation in space debris research, to review the progress of ongoing cooperative activities and to identify debris mitigation options. The IADC is an international forum of governmental bodies that coordinates activities related to space debris. Focus: The IADC addresses the issues of both man-made and natural debris in space. Why it matters: Space debris, also known as space junk, can pose a significant threat to operational satellites and spacecraft.
8th International Symposium on Food Packaging Conference	The 8th International Symposium on Food Packaging, held every 4 years, is internationally recognized scientific forum on the science of packaging to ensure the safety and quality of food. The Individual is scheduled to provide a technical keynote presentation on food packaging for the space food systems and share our challenges. The coordinated program is packed with presentations from top packaging researchers which could enable improvements of the future space food system.
Streamlining Urban-Related Activities in Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW)	The trip is deemed mission essential because it is about attending two back-to-back World Meteorological Organization (WMO) technical meetings of high relevance to NASA. The first meeting aims at bringing together experts from around the world, to put together the first draft of the vision for the 2050 timeframe, of the global observing systems (composed of satellites, airborne, surface instruments). The second meeting is a higher-level meeting of the Standing Committee on Observing Networks. In this meeting, the purpose is to coordinate all aspects related to how Observing systems networks (in space, in upper air, in and on ocean, on land, etc.) are designed, deployed, coordinated internationally, and how they should be evolved to meet the ever increasing needs of the users and the associated applications. Both meetings aim at creating a user-responsive, cost-effective and efficient global observing system constellation.

Location of Travel	Count of Employee	Justification(s)
ABU DHABI , ARE	1	This trip, arranged in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy in the UAE and with OIIR looped in, supports NASA/SMD priorities by strengthening international partnerships in space science and technology. Key meetings include the UAE Space Agency (UAESA), Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' science office to advance collaboration on planetary science, Earth observation, and exploration initiatives. The UAE's growing investments in lunar and Mars exploration.
AKRON , OH , US	1	Attend NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) symposium at the University of Akron in support of Space Act Agreement (SAA). This SAA is a collaboration between NASA, Univ of Akron, and industry partners to develop machine learning technology for materials science applications.
ARDEN , NV , US	1	Travel to the TMS2025 is necessary to support multiple co-authored presentations related to In-Space Welding and solid-state additive manufacturing. This conference will enable discussions on joint technology maturation opportunities between NASA, small business, and academia.
AURORA , CO , US	1	36th Annual Women in Aviation International Conference will be held March 27 - 29, 2025, at the Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center in Aurora, Colorado. Traveler alternative method of transportation, POV, is the most cost advantageous method of transportation. It is the traveler's personal preference to use POV. A miscellaneous expense in the amount of the least expensive option on the cost comparison has been added to the travel authorization. Reimbursement shall not exceed the cost of the NASA.
CENTENNIAL , CO , US	1	Traveler is going to Centennial, CO from March 21-28, 2025 for TSIS-2 Onsite SE Support.
CHUALAR , CA , US	1	Support of Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response Operations (ACERO)'s TCL 1 field demonstration and data collection.
DURHAM , NC , US	1	Traveler will give keynote talk at Duke University which engages students at the intersection of technology and health with strong ties into space biology related research and how NASA addresses health and technology for space. No lodging needed.
ELKTON , MD , US	1	Face to Face Mars Sample Return meetings at DC and participating in the static motor demonstration test, DM-NEXT.
GILBERT , AZ , US	1	Delta Critical Design Review for Paragon and NG ECLSS. As the integrated verification and validation lead, participation with design review and requirements verification is critical for this effort.
HAMPTON , VA , US	1	Wallops is a planned and prepared education program to improve my individual professional development while achieving the agency's mission goals. During this event, we will develop an operational understanding of LaRC and Wallops Flight Facility programs, present Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AIML) benefits for enhancements to my discipline SMA life cycle products, improve technical and soft skill competence through On the Job training and presenting to my peers, and network and collaborate with cross-center subject matter experts
HAWTHORNE , CA , US	1	Assess the post flight performance of the Crew Dragon window pane inspections for engineering purposes.
HOUSTON , TX , US	1	The VSM activity is focused on deep diving the rolling FRAC
KENNER , LA , US	1	First Robotics. Travel is outside of local area as defined by NPR 9710.1, Chapter 2.1.
LEMONT , IL , US	1	Travel to attend a programmatic meeting at Argonne National Laboratory. The traveler is lodging with a colleague for no charge so there is no lodging costs incurred.
LOS ANGELES , CA , US	1	As a board member, I help align ISUs curriculum and research with NASAs workforce and technology needs. This travel aligns with my role, ensuring NASA maintains aerospace leadership and optimizes scientific resources. My participation strengthens NASAs workforce pipeline, research partnerships, and long-term innovation strategy, making this trip a strategic investment in the agency's mission.
MORGANTOWN , WV , US	1	Physical on-site presence at the West Virginia University Department of Mechanical, Materials, and Aerospace Engineering (MMAE) Spring 2025 Advisory Committee Meeting is essential travel as it involves the direct performance of operational activities at a particular site to address topics of general interest that will aid and advance the MMAE Department and the educational outcomes of its engineering students. On-site presence at the meeting enables direct interaction with Committee members, faculty, and students that is significantly more effective in person compared to a virtual setting.
NORFOLK , VA , US	1	Attend the ARMD Center Visit to Langley
PALO ALTO , CA , US	1	3/31-04/04/25 Palo Alto, CA
PANAMA CITY , FL , US	1	FireSense Spring 2025 Deployment
PANAMA CITY BEACH , FL , US	1	Flying Airborne data collection flights in support of the 2025 FireSense Campaign.
SALINAS , CA , US	1	Deploying to Salinas Airport in support of NASA-ARC ACERO TCL-1 technology demonstration mission as UAS Pilot/Operator.
SEATTLE , WA , US	1	Attend AAUS Symposium for training on SCUBA safety and diving operations with NOAA.
WASHINGTON , DC , US	1	Attend/participate in the Technology Demonstration Missions Annual Review and Program/Project Forum.