NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

REPORT PURSUANT TO THE GOOD ACCOUNTING OBLIGATION IN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2019 (P.L. 115-414)

As of December 31, 2025

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NASA'S REQUIRED REPORTING UNDER THE GOOD ACCOUNTING OBLIGATION IN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2019 (P.L. 115-414)

Background

In 2019, the President signed into law the "Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act." The Act was envisioned to improve transparency around long-standing audit recommendations issued by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Federal Offices of Inspectors General (OIG). By requiring agency reporting on the lack of progress towards implementation, the Congress postulated that Federal agencies would be held more accountable and that the public can more readily assess agency funding requests in light of unfulfilled efficiency improvements that could potentially yield cost savings.

Section 2 of the Act imposes an affirmative requirement on Federal agencies to submit an annual report on publicly issued GAO and OIG recommendations classified as "open" for a year or more from the date of the annual budget justification submission. Additionally, the Act also requires that agencies report on publicly issued GAO recommendations that were determined to be "closed, unimplemented." For both categories of recommendations – open and closed, unimplemented – Federal agencies are required to provide an explanation as to why final action[1] has not yet been completed. For any GAO recommendations reported that an agency has decided not to implement, the implementation status must include a detailed justification for the decision. Finally, the Act also requires agencies perform a reconciliation of discrepancies between recommendations reported by GAO and their OIGs and the recommendations according to their agency records.

Summary

As of December 31, 2025, a combined total of 94 GAO and NASA OIG recommendations in 48 public reports were open for one year or more. Of these recommendations, 29 were issued by GAO in 21 reports and 65 were issued by the NASA OIG in 27 reports. There was one GAO recommendation that was closed, unimplemented through December 31, 2025, that had not already been disclosed in prior reports issued in accordance with P.L. 115-414. NASA reconciled GAO's online database of recommendations and the recommendations reported in OIG's 2025 Fall Semiannual Report with its records.

[1] Final Action: The completion of all actions that NASA management has concluded, in its management decision, are necessary with respect to the findings and recommendations included in an audit report; or, in the event that NASA management concludes no action is necessary, final action occurs when a management decision has been made. Source: *5 U.S.C. 405(a)(2).*

Reporting Methodology and Report Structure

This report includes GAO and NASA OIG recommendations issued through December 31, 2024, that remained unimplemented for one year or more from the planned fiscal year (FY) 2027 budget justification submission date in early calendar year 2026.

This report contains five appendices:

- Appendix A: GAO Recommendations Open One Year or More
- Appendix B: GAO Recommendations Closed, Unimplemented
- Appendix C: OIG Recommendations Open One Year or More
- Appendix D: Reconciliation of Agency Records with NASA OIG Semiannual Report and GAO's Database of Open Recommendations
- Appendix E: Glossary of Acronyms

For purposes of NASA's reporting under the Act, the following definitions are provided in order to enhance the utility and readability of this report:

- **Open:** Final action has either been completed and is pending auditor verification and validation, final action by NASA is pending/in-progress, or NASA decided not to implement the recommendation.
- **Closed:** Final action and corresponding auditor verification and validation of completed necessary actions has been completed.
- **Closed, Unimplemented:** Recommendation has been closed; however, final action has been partially completed, not completed, or action(s) not recommended have been taken. (Applicable only to GAO recommendations.)

While NASA has taken final action on 25 recommendations, the auditor is still verifying and validating the corrective actions; therefore, this report lists their status as "Open, Actions Completed." For recommendations with which NASA and the auditors agreed with planned corrective actions, this report provides implementation status updates and timelines to complete planned corrective actions, as well as any budgetary impacts to implement GAO recommendations. These recommendations are considered "Open, Actions In-Progress." For GAO recommendations that NASA has decided not to implement, a justification for the decision is included and this report lists their status as "Open, Will not Implement."

Appendix A: GAO Recommendations Open One Year or More

Open, Actions Completed

1. **Report: NASA: Actions Needed to Improve Transparency and Assess Long-Term Affordability of Human Exploration Programs** (GAO-14-385; 5/8/2014)

   Recommendation 1: To provide the Congress with the necessary insight into program affordability, ensure its ability to effectively monitor total program costs and execution, and to facilitate investment decisions, NASA's Administrator should direct the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate to establish a separate cost and schedule baseline for work required to support the Space Launch System (SLS) Block I Exploration Mission 2 (EM-2) and report this information to the Congress through NASA's annual budget submission. If NASA decides to fly the SLS Block I beyond EM-2, establish separate life-cycle cost and schedule baseline estimates for those efforts, to include funding for operations and sustainment, and report this information annually to Congress via the agency's budget submission.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Explorations Systems Development Mission Directorate

   Target Completion Date: N/A

2. **Report: Telecommunications: Agencies Should Fully Implement Established Transition Planning Practices to Help Reduce Risk of Costly Delays** (GAO-20-155; 4/7/2020)

   Recommendation 21: The Administrator of NASA should ensure that the agency's Chief Information Officer (CIO) updates the telecommunications inventory to include all telecommunications assets and services in use at the agency, and updates NASA's process for ongoing maintenance of the inventory to include the complete inventory.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

   Target Completion Date: N/A

3. **Report: Telecommunications: Agencies Should Fully Implement Established Transition Planning Practices to Help Reduce Risk of Costly Delays** (GAO-20-155; 4/7/2020)

   Recommendation 22: The Administrator of NASA should ensure that the agency's CIO completes efforts to identify the agency's future telecommunications needs using a complete inventory of existing telecommunications services.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

   Target Completion Date: N/A

4. **Report: Telecommunications: Agencies Should Fully Implement Established Transition Planning Practices to Help Reduce Risk of Costly Delays** (GAO-20-155; 4/7/2020)

   Recommendation 24: The Administrator of NASA should ensure that the agency's CIO conducts an analysis to support the anticipated cost savings identified as part of the agency's justification for its resource requests related to hardware and software upgrades for the telecommunications transition, and justifies its resource requests for transition program management staff; conducts an analysis to identify staff resources needed for the entire transition effort; and analyzes training needs for staff assisting with the transition.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

   Target Completion Date: N/A

5. **Report: Federal Contracting: Senior Leaders Should Use Leading Companies' Key Practices to Improve Performance** (GAO-21-491; 7/27/2021)

   Recommendation 10: The Administrator of NASA should ensure the NASA Senior Procurement Executive uses a balanced set of performance metrics to manage the agency's procurement organizations, including outcome-oriented metrics to measure (a) cost savings/avoidance, (b) timeliness of deliveries, (c) quality of deliverables, and (d) end-user satisfaction.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of Procurement

   Target Completion Date: N/A

6. **Report: Research Reliability: Federal Actions Needed to Promote Stronger Research Practices** (GAO-22-104411; 7/28/2022)

   Recommendation 6: The Administrator of NASA should take steps to collect information to determine whether current policies and requirements are adequate to achieve transparency by ensuring research results and data are findable, accessible, and usable, and implement programmatic or policy changes, if needed.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

   Target Completion Date: N/A

7. **Report: Privacy: Dedicated Leadership Can Improve Programs and Address Challenges** (GAO-22-105065; 9/22/2022)

   Recommendation 48: The Administrator of NASA should incorporate privacy into an organization-wide risk management strategy that includes a determination of risk tolerance.

Status: NASA Action Completed

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

Target Completion Date: N/A

8. **Report: NASA Lunar Programs: Improved Mission Guidance Needed as Artemis Complexity Grows** (GAO-22-105323; 09/08/2022)

   Recommendation 2: The NASA Administrator, in coordination with the relevant Mission Directorates, should ensure NASA conducts a schedule risk analysis for the Artemis II mission as close as possible to completion of the Artemis I mission and update it as needed to incorporate schedule updates and new risks.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

   Target Completion Date: N/A

9. **Report: Artificial Intelligence: Agencies Have Begun Implementation but Need to Complete Key Requirements** (GAO-24-105980; 12/12/2023)

   Recommendation 33: The Administrator of NASA should ensure that the agency updates and approves the agency's plan to achieve consistency with Executive Order 13960 section 5 for each Artificial Intelligence (AI) application, to include retiring AI applications found to be developed or used in a manner that is not consistent with the order.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

   Target Completion Date: N/A

10. **Report: Small Business Subcontracting: Some Contracting Officers Face Challenges Assessing Compliance with the Good Faith Standard** (GAO-24-106225; 11/9/2023)

    Recommendation 9: The NASA Administrator should work with relevant contracting staff, such as small business specialists, to develop and implement just-in-time training for Contracting Officers (CO) related to good faith assessments.

    Status: NASA Action Completed

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of Procurement

    Target Completion Date: N/A

11. **Report: Cloud Computing: Selected Agencies Need to Implement Updated Guidance for Managing Restrictive Licenses** (GAO-25-107114; 11/13/2024)

    Recommendation 8: The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should assign and document responsibility for identifying and managing potential impacts of restrictive software licensing practices across the agency.

    Status: NASA Action Completed

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

    Target Completion Date: N/A

12. **Report: Internet of Things: Federal Actions Needed to Address Legislative Requirements (**GAO-25-107179; 12/4/2024)

    Recommendation 8: The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should direct the CIO to establish a plan and time frame for completing the covered Internet of Things inventory, as directed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

    Status: NASA Action Completed

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

    Target Completion Date: N/A

13. **Report: Small Business Research Programs: Agencies Identified Foreign Risks, but Some Due Diligence Programs Lack Clear Procedures** (GAO-25-107402; 11/21/2024)

    Recommendation 3: Ensure that the Small Business Innovation Research/ Small Business Technology Transfer program office and Office of Protective Services (OPS), Counterintelligence/Counterterrorism Division develop and document agreed-upon procedures for requesting analytical support and sharing information—including classified information, as applicable—to support due diligence reviews.

    Status: NASA Action Completed

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Technology Mission Directorate

    Target Completion Date: N/A

Open, Actions In-Progress

14. **Report: Telecommunications: Agencies Need Better Controls to Achieve Significant Savings on Mobile Devices and Services** (GAO-15-431; 5/21/2015)

    Recommendation 28: To help the agency effectively manage spending on mobile devices and services, the Administrator of NASA should ensure a complete inventory of mobile devices and associated services is established.

    Status: The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) submitted a request for closure for this recommendation in March 2025. Upon GAO's request, the OCIO is in the final stages of providing an updated complete inventory of mobile devices and associated services to resubmit for closure. NASA is working closely with GAO to provide additional documentation to support closure consideration.

    Budget Implications: None Known

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

    Target Completion Date: May 29, 2026

15. **Report: Telecommunications: Agencies Need Better Controls to Achieve Significant Savings on Mobile Devices and Services** (GAO-15-431; 5/21/2015)

    Recommendation 29: To help the agency effectively manage spending on mobile devices and services, the Administrator of NASA should ensure a reliable inventory of mobile service contracts is developed and maintained.

    Status: The OCIO submitted a request for closure for this recommendation in March 2025. Upon GAO's request, the OCIO is in the final stages of provided updated information on NASA's current mobile service contracts to resubmit for closure. NASA is working closely with GAO to provide additional documentation to support closure consideration.

    Budget Implications: None Known

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

    Target Completion Date: May 29, 2026

16. **Report: Telecommunications: Agencies Need Better Controls to Achieve Significant Savings on Mobile Devices and Services** (GAO-15-431; 5/21/2015)

    Recommendation 30: To help the agency effectively manage spending on mobile devices and services, the Administrator of NASA should ensure procedures to monitor and control spending are established Agency-wide. Specifically, ensure that (1) procedures include assessing devices for zero, under, and over usage; (2) personnel with authority and responsibility for performing the procedures are identified; and (3) the specific steps to be taken to perform the process are documented.

Status: The OCIO submitted a request for closure for this recommendation in March 2025. Upon GAO's request, the OCIO is in the process of finalizing updated evidence to resubmit the recommendation for closure. This new evidence will further explain how the new mobile service contracts are currently structured compared to how they were structured when the audit was conducted in 2015. NASA is working closely with GAO to provide additional documentation to support closure consideration.

Budget Implications: None Known

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

Target Completion Date: May 29, 2026

17. **Report: NASA Commercial Crew Program: Plan Needed to Ensure Uninterrupted Access to the International Space Station** (GAO-18-476; 7/11/2018)

Recommendation 4: After completing the agency certification review, NASA's Chief Engineer and Chief of Safety and Mission Assurance, with support from the NASA Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations and the Commercial Crew Program Manager, should document lessons learned related to loss of crew as a safety threshold for future crewed spaceflight missions, given the complexity of the metric.

Status: It remains the intention of NASA to document lessons learned regarding the loss of crew as a critical safety threshold for future crewed spacecraft missions. Following the issues encountered during Boeing's Crew Flight Test mission, Boeing and NASA are actively working to address and mitigate the identified concerns. Pending resolution of these issues, NASA and Boeing are tentatively targeting the next Starliner cargo-only flight for 2026. Boeing certification will occur 45 days post Starliner-1.

Budget Implications: None Known

Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Operations Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: September 30, 2026

18. **Report: NASA Lunar Programs: Opportunities Exist to Strengthen Analyses and Plans for Moon Landing** (GAO-20-68; 12/19/2019)

Recommendation 3: Ensure that the NASA Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations directs the Gateway program to update its overall schedule for 2024 to add a key decision point (KDP) II to occur before system integration.

Status: The fiscal year (FY) 2026 President's Budget Request supported the close-out of the Gateway program. Subsequently, the Working Families Tax Cut (WFTC) Act (Pub. Law No. 119-21) provided funding for Gateway initial capabilities, which include the Power and Propulsion Element and the Habitation and Logistics Outpost. NASA is currently evaluating options for the Gateway initial capabilities, consistent with Congressional direction.

Budget Implications: None Known

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2026

19. **Report: Cybersecurity: Federal Agencies Made Progress, but Need to Fully Implement Incident Response Requirements** (GAO-24-105658; 12/4/2023)

    Recommendation 17: The Administrator of NASA should ensure that the agency fully implements all event logging requirements as directed by OMB guidance.

    Status: The OCIO remains committed to prioritizing initiatives that address the technical and operational requirements across all Event Logging (EL) tiers, consistent with our interpretation of OMB Memorandum M-21-31, *Improving the Federal Government's Investigative and Remediation Capabilities Related to Cybersecurity Incidents*. This includes meeting expectations for Intermediate Logging Categories, publication of standardized log structures, inspection of encrypted data, and intermediate centralized access.

    In parallel, NASA continues to engage with the inter-agency logging community to stay informed of how the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and other Federal agencies are implementing and maturing their M-21-31 capabilities. This collaboration helps inform NASA's strategy, incorporate best practices, and ensure our approach remains aligned with broader Federal direction.

    Together, these efforts are intended to establish a clear and achievable path to EL2 maturity while providing a scalable foundation for future progression toward EL3.

    Budget Implications: None Known

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

    Target Completion Date: November 30, 2028

20. **Report: Artificial Intelligence: Agencies Have Begun Implementation but Need to Complete Key Requirements** (GAO-24-105980; 12/12/2023)

    Recommendation 34: The Administrator of NASA should ensure that the agency updates its AI use case inventory to include all the required information, at minimum, and takes steps to ensure that the data in the inventory aligns with provided instructions.

    Status: The Chief AI Officer has completed an annual AI use case inventory data call per the OMB requirement M-25-21, *Accelerating Federal Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust*, and manages that inventory in the AI Use Case Registry.

    Budget Implications: None Known

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

    Target Completion Date: January 30, 2026

21. **Report: NASA Artemis Missions: Exploration Ground Systems Program Could Strengthen Schedule Decisions** (GAO-25-106943; 10/17/2024)

    Recommendation 1: Ensure that Exploration Ground Systems (EGS) program and Mobile Launcher 2 (ML-2) project officials perform at least one schedule risk analysis prior to beginning integrated operation activities to support the Artemis IV launch.

    Status: The FY 2026 President's Budget Request supported an orderly phase out of the NASA SLS and EGS programs after Artemis III, which included ML-2 development. Subsequently, the WFTC Act provided funding for the procurement, transportation, integration, operation, and other necessary expenses of SLS for Artemis Missions IV and V. NASA is currently evaluating options for executing these funds in support of future Artemis missions, consistent with Congressional direction, including options for the ML-2 project.

    Budget Implications: None Known

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

    Target Completion Date: September 30, 2027

22. **Report: IT Portfolio Management: OMB and Agencies Are Not Fully Addressing Selected Statutory Requirements** (GAO-25-107041; 11/14/2024)

    Recommendation 37: The Administrator of NASA should direct its Agency CIO to work with OMB to ensure that annual reviews of their information technology (IT) portfolio are conducted in conjunction with the Federal CIO and the Chief Operating Officer or Deputy Secretary (or equivalent), as prescribed by the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act.

    Status: With the change in Administration, NASA leadership has tasked Agency organizations to streamline business processes and governance, which is currently underway. The processes under revision include NASA's budget formulation process, which is one of the primary processes NASA's information technology portfolio development, review, and approval are dependent on.

    Budget Implications: None Known

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

    Target Completion Date: May 31, 2027

23. **Report: Cloud Computing: Selected Agencies Need to Implement Updated Guidance for Managing Restrictive Licenses** (GAO-25-107114; 11/13/2024)

    Recommendation 7: The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should update and implement guidance to fully address identifying, analyzing, and mitigating the impacts of restrictive software licensing practices on cloud computing efforts.

Status: In July 2025, Recommendation 8, which formally assigned and documented the responsibilities to update and implement the guidance identified in Recommendation 7, was requested for closure. Since that time, OCIO has begun developing guidance on how users should identify software licensing practices that would be defined as "restrictive" and impacting to their use of cloud computing services, based on the definitions provided by GAO. Additionally, OCIO has been designing a mechanism for NASA personnel to report such encounters for further analysis and the development of "lessons learned" documentation for each encounter. As reported during NASA's interviews with GAO, NASA has not encountered many instances of restrictive software licensing practices, to date, and therefore the development of appropriate mitigation guidance will be a continuing effort, which will address any such practices that are encountered.

Budget Implications: None Known

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

Target Completion Date: August 31, 2026

Open, Will not Implement

24. **Report: NASA Information Technology: Urgent Action Needed to Address Significant Management and Cybersecurity Weaknesses** (GAO-18-337; 5/22/2018)

    Recommendation 3: The Administrator should direct the CIO to address, in conjunction with the Chief Human Capital Officer, gaps in IT workforce planning by fully implementing the eight key IT workforce planning activities noted in this report.

    Justification not to implement: NASA did not concur with GAO's recommendation, as NASA was conducting a comprehensive, Agency-wide assessment designed to ensure that NASA mission support resources are optimally structured to achieve the NASA mission.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

25. **Report: NASA Lunar Programs: Opportunities Exist to Strengthen Analyses and Plans for Moon Landing** (GAO-20-68; 12/19/2019)

    Recommendation 4: The NASA Administrator should ensure that the NASA Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations creates a life-cycle cost estimate for the Artemis III mission.

    Justification not to implement: While on December 11, 2019, NASA originally concurred with this recommendation, stating that NASA would establish baseline cost and schedule commitments for Gateway Phase 1 project and the Human Landing System program through demonstration of a human lunar landing capability, NASA has since clarified its position and actions. NASA tracks Artemis costs by major component or element instead of by mission or flight.

The Artemis implementation is unique from other NASA activities in that the flexible architecture is a guiding principle within the Artemis program, enabling NASA to adapt to changing requirements, leverage partnerships, and achieve sustainable and cost-effective human exploration of the Moon and beyond. By embracing flexibility and innovation, NASA aims to establish a robust infrastructure and lay the foundation for future exploration missions to Mars and beyond. The approach NASA is pursuing ensures that capabilities are developed to meet the needs of the architecture. These developments are consistent with NASA policy and follow the development process as documented in NASA command media (i.e., NASA Procedural Requirements (NPR) 7120.5F, NASA Space Flight Program and Project Management Requirements).

NASA recognizes GAO's critical role in promoting Artemis accountability and transparency; however, imposing a flight-by-flight cost assessment as a benchmark on individual Artemis missions can potentially hinder the success, innovation, and long-term sustainability of space missions. A more balanced approach that considers both short-term cost containment and long-term mission objectives is essential for achieving meaningful and impactful exploration and scientific discovery in space.

NASA utilizes a range of management and reporting tools to ensure transparency and accountability at the mission level for all stakeholders. These tools include project-level cost and schedule joint confidence level informed development commitments (including for major developmental upgrades), independent review at major life-cycle reviews and associated KDPs, documented and configuration-controlled mission definition baselines, by-mission schedule risk assessments, life-cycle cost estimates in Phase E, five-year rolling estimates consistent with guidance provided in NPR 7120.5F, independent Agency financial auditing (including a 15th consecutive unmodified "clean" opinion for FY 2025), annual Agency budget requests, Agency-led baseline performance and major program reviews, independent reviews by the NASA Advisory Council and Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, multiple ongoing reviews from the governmental oversight entities, and regular Artemis detailed status updates to Congress.

On August 27, 2025, NASA communicated its decision to GAO to take no further action on this recommendation and requested closure consideration.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

26. Report: NASA Lunar Programs: Significant Work Remains, Underscoring Challenges to Achieving Moon Landing in 2024 (GAO-21-330; 5/26/2021)

Recommendation 1: The NASA Administrator, in coordination with the Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate (SMD), should ensure the Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) project office includes relevant development costs from the Resource Prospector project and the cost of the Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) task order for the delivery of VIPER to the lunar surface into its cost baseline.

Justification not to implement: In NASA's original response on April 27, 2021, and as reiterated on November 31, 2021, in the Agency's Statement of Action letter, NASA nonconcurred with the recommendation. The VIPER mission was confirmed to enter the development phase on February 23, 2021, at a total life-cycle cost of $433.5 million.

This amount is reported as the Agency Baseline Commitment and includes the full development and operations costs that are managed by the VIPER project (not early technology development investments made by NASA nor CLPS delivery costs).

NASA cancelled the VIPER project in 2024 due to cost increases, delays to the launch date, and the risks of future cost growth. However, given the importance of resource prospecting to a sustainable presence on the lunar surface, and that the VIPER rover itself was nearly complete, NASA announced a Request for Information (RFI) to U.S. industry and international partners for alternative means to repurpose its next-generation science payloads. The Agency has since explored alternative approaches to achieve the Agency's goals of mapping potential off-planet resources (e.g., water/ice) that are both independent from and inclusive of the VIPER rover.

On September 19, 2025, NASA announced it awarded Blue Origin a CLPS task order that includes an option to deliver VIPER to the Moon's South Pole region by late 2027. The task order has an award base to design the payload-specific accommodations and to demonstrate how Blue Origin's flight design will off-load the rover to the lunar surface. NASA will make the decision to exercise the option on the contract to deliver and safely deploy the rover to the Moon's surface after the execution and review of the base task and of Blue Origin's first flight of the Blue Moon Mark 1 lander. This approach will reduce the Agency's cost and technical risk. The rover has a targeted science window for its mission that requires a landing by late 2027. Additionally in 2025, NASA established a new Lunar Volatiles Science initiative that utilizes the VIPER rover to complete lunar volatiles investigations. The overall budget and level of support from the Lunar Volatiles Science team is in discussions and should be finalized in the third quarter of FY 2026.

NASA plans to take no further action on this recommendation and awaits GAO's determination on previous requests for closure consideration.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

27. **Report: Research Reliability: Federal Actions Needed to Promote Stronger Research Practices** (GAO-22-104411; 7/28/2022)

Recommendation 5: The Administrator of NASA should collect information on relevant indicators of rigor to assess the research projects the agency funds, and implement steps, as needed, to promote strong research practices in future work.

Justification not to implement: In NASA's original response on June 27, 2022, and as reiterated on January 17, 2023, in the Agency's Statement of Actions letter, NASA nonconcurred with the recommendation. NASA is committed to ensuring research reliability in the research projects that it funds. NASA believes that the best way to ensure research reliability is the peer review process, which has long been the gold standard for scientific credibility. Accordingly, NASA relies on the peer review process in the scientific community to assess research rigor, quality, transparency, and relevance of science proposals submitted to NASA, as well as the scientific journal publications arising from NASA-funded research. Furthermore, NASA is aware of little to no evidence of weak research practices in the research the Agency funds. Finally, while NASA values the recommendation's goal of promoting strong research practices in NASA-funded research, NASA lacks the resources that would be necessary to collect information on indicators of rigor.

No further actions are anticipated in response to this recommendation. Existing external peer review processes successfully promote research reliability for both submitted research proposals and published journal articles at NASA and across the international scientific community.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

28. **Report: Leading Practices: Agency Acquisition Policies Could Better Implement Key Product Development Principles** (GAO-22-104513; 3/10/2022)

Recommendation 8: The NASA Administrator should ensure that the NASA Office of the Chief Engineer (OCE) update NASA acquisition policies to fully implement the following principle throughout development: applying iterative design approaches.

Justification not to implement: In NASA's February 22, 2022, original response, and as reiterated on August 24, 2022, in the Agency's Statement of Actions letter, NASA concurred with the recommendation and took substantive action to address it. Specifically, NASA policy applies iterative design approaches, and NASA encourages the use of modern design tools for software and hardware development efforts. The specific tools used and described are included in NPR 7120.5, as part of the Program Plan and Project Plans. NASA's decentralized approach to access modern tools enables engineers to obtain the most recent technology available. NASA continually uses and solicits user feedback to inform subsequent projects through many platforms. As described in the NASA Systems Engineering Handbook Expanded Guidance Volume 1, Chapter 4.0: "System Design Practices," it is extremely important to involve stakeholders in all phases of a project. The guidance encourages the involvement of a feedback loop to help with corrections that will significantly enhance the chances of mission success. Involving stakeholders in a project builds confidence in the end product and facilitates validation and acceptance with the target audience.

NASA has responded to GAO's recommendation and implemented the following changes to address their recommendation based on how NASA operates.

- The NASA OCE and OCIO worked together to update organization policies that reflected the items outlined in the GAO's recommendation.

- The OCE updated NPR 7123.1D, NASA Systems Engineering Processes and Requirements, to clarify the NASA Technical Handbook, "NASA Systems Engineering Modeling Handbook for Systems Engineering" (NASA-HDBK-1009), used to supplement the NPR.

- The OCIO updated NPR 7120.7A, NASA Information Technology Program and Project Management Requirements, to include organizational changes from Transformation decision, including new IT Governance framework and the establishment of OCIO Service Lines. Updates to improve process or clarify requirements, including updated tailoring guidance, change management guidance, updated/clarified incremental and iterative development/release guidance to address the GAO audit finding and better support Agile and incremental development, and additional information on the Project

Communications Plan requirement. This includes language to include a Minimally Viable Product design process.

On July 1, 2025, NASA communicated its decision to GAO to take no further action in response to this recommendation and requested closure consideration.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Engineer

29. **Report: NASA Cybersecurity: Plan Needed to Update Spacecraft Acquisition Policies and Standards** (GAO-24-106624; 10/15/2024)

Recommendation 1: The NASA Administrator should ensure that the Chief Engineer, the CIO, and the Principal Advisor for Enterprise Protection develop an implementation plan with timelines to update its spacecraft acquisition polices and standards to incorporate essential controls and protect against cyber threats.

Justification not to implement: NASA partially concurred with GAO's recommendation, specifically, NASA did not agree with the conclusion that the CIO, Chief Engineer, and Principal Advisor for Enterprise Protection needed to create an implementation plan with timeframes to update its spacecraft acquisition policies and standards to include essential controls and protection against cyber threats.

Considerations for NASA's partial concurrence:

- NASA's current acquisition process enables mission programs and projects to define requirements in contracts based on mission objectives and evaluating protection needs, scope, size, scale, complexity, and architecture of a given mission initiative.

- Given NASA's diverse portfolio of mission programs and projects which span from crewed vehicles to small satellites, NASA incorporates controls based upon their specific cyber and risk threats; therefore, it is not feasible to develop one set of essential controls applicable to all types of mission spacecraft. Appropriate controls selection is performed by the program or project.

- The design, development, and operation of spacecraft require integrated functionality within tight constraints (e.g., compute, size, weight, power). Transitioning traditional cybersecurity capabilities, such as those associated with commodity or traditional information technology, into this environment is not trivial and requires careful consideration to avoid impacts to the system's objectives and the ability to operate safely.

- Every NASA policy and standard has an existing minimum re-validation schedule that includes the Office of Safety and Mission Assurance, OCE, and cybersecurity subject matter experts to ensure the policy or standard remains appropriate for that program or project. In addition, off-schedule updates are routinely used. Acquisition processes are subsequently updated to incorporate appropriate changes.

NASA has existing policies and processes that evaluate risks and enable mission programs to select appropriate protection controls associated with complex and purpose-built space systems. These complex systems enable our missions, programs, and projects to explore the unknown in air and space, innovate for the benefit of humanity, and inspire the world through discovery (NASA Strategic Plan: https://www.nasa.gov/ocfo/strategic-plan/). Our extensive policies and processes provide frameworks for risk management, which includes the National Institute of Standards and Technology's cyber risk framework, and allows for flexibility to adapt requirements to meet the specific needs of our missions.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

Appendix B: GAO Recommendations Closed, Unimplemented

Closed, Unimplemented

1. **Report: NASA Human Space Exploration: Persistent Delays and Cost Growth Reinforce Concerns Over Management of Programs** (GAO-19-377; 6/19/2019)

   Recommendation 3: The NASA Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations direct the EGS program to demonstrate design maturity by completing three-dimensional (3D) product modeling of the basic and functional design of the second Mobile Launcher prior to construction start.

   Justification not to implement: In NASA's June 3, 2019, original response and as reiterated in the Agency's January 9, 2020, Statement of Actions letter, NASA concurred with the recommendation stating that use of 3D modeling is a requirement in the ML-2 contract.

   NASA reported to GAO that the EGS Program completed the ML-2 Critical Design Review (CDR) Step 1—which focused on ML-2 hardware and programmatics—in accordance with NPR 7120.5 and NPR 7123.1, NASA Systems Engineering Processes and Requirements, in January 2024. The ML-2 CDR demonstrated that the ML-2 architecture and engineering meets functional and performance requirements for SLS Block 1B, with provisions for Block 2, and is ready for full-scale fabrication, assembly, integration, and Verification and Validation testing. The ML-2 Project Team met all entrance criteria, including completion of all subsystem 90 percent design reviews and successful completion of the integrated CDR (iCDR) in March 2023, which was a major milestone on the Bechtel contract. The 3D model 'fly-thru' that was presented in the iCDR and the Step 1 CDR provided evidence of a complete 3D model of the ML-2 design.

   On January 21, 2025, GAO closed the recommendation as "no longer valid."

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Appendix C: OIG Recommendations Open One Year or More

Open, Actions Completed

1. **Report: NASA's Readiness for the Artemis II Crewed Mission to Lunar Orbit** (IG-24-011; 5/1/2024)

   Recommendation 3: Require EGS conduct additional verification and validation for launch imagery equipment prior to launch attempts should launch conditions change.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

   Target Completion Date: N/A

2. **Report: NASA's Readiness for the Artemis II Crewed Mission to Lunar Orbit** (IG-24-011; 5/1/2024)

   Recommendation 6: Establish a course of action and timeline for individual Artemis system design changes before beginning integrated system assembly stacking operations.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

   Target Completion Date: N/A

3. **Report: NASA's Management of Space Launch System Block 1B Development** (IG-24-015; 8/8/2024)

   Recommendation 2: Institute financial penalties for Boeing's noncompliance with quality control standards.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

   Target Completion Date: N/A

4. **Report: Audit of NASA's Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Statements** (IG-25-001; 11/15/2024)

   Recommendation 1: Management should ensure that control activities are operating as designed and that the appropriate level of documentation to evidence reviews is maintained to prevent and detect material misstatements.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Target Completion Date: N/A

5. **Report: Audit of NASA's Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Statements** (IG-25-001; 11/15/2024)

   Recommendation 2: Management should also consider whether additional training on proper operation of its controls is necessary to enhance NASA's financial reporting control environment.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Financial Officer

   Target Completion Date: N/A

6. **Report: Audit of NASA's Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Statements** (IG-25-001; 11/15/2024)

   Recommendation 3: Management should perform ongoing monitoring over the operating effectiveness of its financial reporting controls.

   Status: NASA Action Completed

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Financial Officer

   Target Completion Date: N/A

Open, Actions In-Progress

7. **Report: NASA's Security Management Practices** (IG-20-001; 10/21/2019)

   Recommendation 5: Coordinate with the Office of the General Counsel to standardize the carrying of firearms by NASA civil servants in an Agency-wide policy while also addressing the appropriate situations when NASA contractors may carry their government-issued weapons off NASA property.

   Status: A decision was made to incorporate all elements into a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Special Agents. This SOP finalizes the qualifications and fitness for duty standards for the NASA civil servant sworn Federal Officers/Special Agents and was finalized on April 15, 2025. The OPS requested for a legislative proposal to be sent forward to OMB every year since 2018, and it has yet to be enacted into law. Based on guidance from the OIG, we opted to pivot our approach. A policy is currently being developed, pertaining to NASA contractors carrying off property, which will require Office of the General Counsel review.

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of Protective Services

   Target Completion Date: July 30, 2026

8. **Report: NASA's Management of Crew Transportation to the International Space Station** (IG-20-005; 11/14/2019)

   Recommendation 2: Correct identified safety-critical technical issues before the crewed test flights, including parachute, propulsion, and launch abort systems, to ensure sufficient safety margins exist.

   Status: Boeing is still conducting testing from the Crew Flight Test anomalies. A closure request will be submitted after Boeing testing is complete, Starliner-1 flies the cargo only mission, and NASA completes certification.

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Operations Mission Directorate

   Target Completion Date: September 30, 2026

9. **Report: NASA's Management of Distributed Active Archive Centers** (IG-20-011; 3/3/2020)

   Recommendation 1: In conjunction with Earth Science Data and Information System, once NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) and Surface Water and Topography (SWOT) are operational and providing sufficient data, complete an independent analysis to determine the long-term financial sustainability of supporting the cloud migration and operation while also maintaining the current Distributed Active Archive Centers footprint.

   Status: The SWOT spacecraft launched in December 2022. The NISAR satellite launched in July 2025 and its science phase began early November 2025 after completing calibration, delivering dozens of terabytes of data daily. Although 18 months of NISAR prime science operations have not been completed, NASA has begun the initial phases of collecting requirements and establishing service priorities in an effort to modernize, streamline, and reduce the cost of data management by transforming the existing 11 Distributed Active Archive Centers with a small number of thematic science-enabling teams.

   Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

   Target Completion Date: March 31, 2026

10. **Report: NASA's Management of the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle Program** (IG-20-018; 7/16/2020)

    Recommendation 2: To the extent practicable, adjust the production schedules for Artemis IV and V to better align with the successful demonstration of Artemis II to reduce schedule delays associated with potential rework.

    Status: The FY 2026 President's Budget Request supported an orderly phase out of the NASA SLS program after Artemis III. Subsequently, the WFTC Act provided funding for the procurement, transportation, integration, operation, and other necessary expenses of SLS for Artemis Missions IV and V. NASA is currently evaluating options for executing these funds in support of future Artemis missions, consistent with Congressional direction.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2026

11. Report: NASA's Planetary Science Portfolio (IG-20-023; 9/16/2020)

Recommendation 2: In coordination with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), engage relevant Centers and technical capability leaders to identify budgetary and accounting system solutions within the current budgetary and full cost accounting system to adequately fund and sustain critical technical discipline capabilities needed to support current and future projects.

Status: SMD is continuing to coordinate with OCFO as the Agency examines its long-term approach to funding technical capabilities. SMD has been formulating a coordinated response across the OCFO and other parties per recent guidance from OIG. NASA is working closely with OIG to provide additional documentation to support closure consideration.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: March 31, 2026

12. Report: Audit of NASA's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act (IG-21-001; 10/2/2020)

Recommendation 2: Develop a unified Strategy Implementation Plan or "Roadmap" that defines detailed action items, milestones, and responsibilities for geospatial data management in support of missions across NASA.

Status: The Chief Data Officer has published the NASA Data Strategy and NASA Interim Directive (NID) 2800.149, NASA Data Governance, Roles, and Responsibilities, which encompasses geospatial data. With the finalization of the Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) addendum detailing the SAOGI's acceptance of the Senior Data Official responsibilities, NASA will request closure of this recommendation.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

Target Completion Date: January 31, 2026

13. Report: NASA's Management of Its Acquisition Workforce (IG-21-002; 10/27/2020)

Recommendation 2: Document contract assignments to COs, Contracting Officer's Representatives (COR), and program/project managers in a centralized system for inclusion in the performance metrics dashboard.

Status: In 2025, the Office of Procurement developed and implemented its Performance Metrics Dashboards related to COs, CORs, and Program and Project Managers (P/PM). The CO & COR tracker dashboard provides insight into the contract assignments and related actions for the CO and COR acquisition workforce community for all contracts not physically completed and closed out since FY 2015. The dashboard allows for

filtering by fiscal year and quarter, active and inactive contracts, Center, award types, CO and COR name, contract number, vendor name, and pricing type. Based on the filtering, the visualizations on the dashboard show the results of the filtered data. These visualizations include number of COs and CORs total number of contracts, total obligations, and total current value, as well as the range of when contracts expire.

The Program Manager (PM) tracker dashboard provides insight into the active number of Federal Acquisition Institute, Federal Acquisition Certification P/PM certified program and project managers within acquisition workforce community and last assigned program. The dashboard allows for filtering by PM name, program title, PM position title, and Center. Based on the filtering, the visualizations on the dashboard show the results of the filtered data. These visualizations include number of PMs and programs, programs by Center and PMs by Center.

As a result of the work performed on this recommendation, NASA is working with OIG to bring this recommendation to closure.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of Procurement

Target Completion Date: February 27, 2026

14. **Report: NASA's Management of the International Space Station and Efforts to Commercialize Low Earth Orbit** (IG-22-005; 11/30/2021)

    Recommendation 1: Ensure the risks associated with cracks and leaks in the Service Module Transfer Tunnel (PrK) are identified and mitigated prior to agreeing to an International Space Station (ISS) life extension.

    Status: NASA's ISS Program continues working with Roscosmos to develop a long-term solution for PrK operations through 2030. The current posture remains to minimize risk within the PrK by keeping the hatch closed and entering only as needed for visiting vehicle logistics. Roscosmos has approved its participation in the ISS through 2028 under its funding cycle and expects a decision on extending beyond 2028 by late 2026.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Operations Mission Directorate

    Target Completion Date: December 31, 2026

15. **Report: Ames Research Center's Lease Management Practices** (IG-22-015; 8/4/2022)

    Recommendation 9: Within the next 3 years, conduct a Center-wide security vulnerability risk assessment, including the districts outside Ames Campus, to ensure compliance with federal and NASA requirements.

    Status: There are outstanding decisions pending on the open campus concept. No funding has been identified at this time to perform this task; therefore, the OPS intends to reach out to the Interagency Security Committee to inquire about obtaining other resources to assist. The timeline of completion remains unknown. To be noted, the Ames Research Center Protective Services Office continuously assesses risk and no unacceptable risks that are a threat personnel or mission have been identified.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of Protective Services

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2027

16. **Report: Ames Research Center's Lease Management Practices** (IG-22-015; 8/4/2022)

    Recommendation 10: Identify and implement mitigation strategies and resource requirements to address security vulnerability assessment risks.

    Status: Ames Research Center leadership has not reached a decision on their desired end state for an "open campus" environment in the NASA Research Park. Implementation of identified minimum mitigation strategies and required mitigation strategies from the assessment is contingent upon a defined end state for "open campus." The OPS has taken steps to mitigate vulnerabilities to an acceptable level for the current configuration of the NASA Research Park. To date, minimal studies and design work has been initiated by the Center.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of Protective Services

    Target Completion Date: December 31, 2027

17. **Report: NASA's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act for Fiscal Year 2022** (IG-23-001; 10/5/2022)

    Recommendation 2: Ensure roles and responsibilities of the SAOGI and other key stakeholders are defined in both the Geospatial Data Strategy and its implementation plan.

    Status: In December 2025, OIG confirmed the NASA Data Strategy and NID 2800.149, NASA Data Governance Roles and Responsibilities, meet the intent of the recommendation; however, OIG requested an addendum to be added to the SAOGI MOU, connecting that role to the Senior Data Official responsibilities. With the finalization of the SAOGI MOU, NASA will request closure of this recommendation.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

    Target Completion Date: January 31, 2026

18. **Report: NASA's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act for Fiscal Year 2022** (IG-23-001; 10/5/2022)

    Recommendation 3: Ensure the implementation plan for the Geospatial Data Strategy contains detailed action items and milestones, including those for developing a complete and accurate inventory of the Agency's geospatial data.

    Status: The Chief Data Officer and NASA SAOGI are working to complete the geospatial data inventory. The inventory was underway but was delayed due to impacts from the Deferred Resignation Program and government shutdown.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

Target Completion Date: October 30, 2026

19. **Report: NASA's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act for Fiscal Year 2022** (IG-23-001; 10/5/2022)

    Recommendation 4: Ensure continued coordination with National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to establish the appropriate level of scientific data for inclusion in NARA-approved records schedules.

    Status: The Agency's Records Management program has been on pause since the beginning of FY 2026 and will continue in this status through the end of the fiscal year. The Program no longer has dedicated focus on Center records management. Due to the programs' staffing significant loses and current pause status, additional time will be required to allow the remaining three civil servants to mitigate the effects of the records management pause on NASA Centers and plan the future of records management.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

    Target Completion Date: September 30, 2027

20. **Report: NASA's Software Asset Management** (IG-23-008; 1/12/2023)

    Recommendation 2: Implement a single Software Asset Management tool across the Agency.

    Status: The OCIO has successfully piloted the Software Access Management tool and is in the earliest stages of deploying the tool to a production environment. Upon full deployment, OCIO will begin the normalization activities necessary to enhance the quality of available data. The initial focus will be strategically designed to achieve maximum value from available licensing.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

    Target Completion Date: October 1, 2027

21. **Report: NASA's Software Asset Management** (IG-23-008; 1/12/2023)

    Recommendation 9: Centralize software spending insights to include purchase cards.

    Status: Since the NASA OIG audit, the OCFO and OCIO established a working group in January 2023 that developed a number of recommendations to address greater visibility and insights into Agency spending on software assets. While NASA implemented a change in 2024 to track software purchases made with purchase cards, the OIG is waiting for leadership to evaluate the disposition of the working group's recommendations before deciding whether to close this recommendation. The Agency is in the process of assessing and identifying a path forward by March 2026.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Financial Officer

    Target Completion Date: March 31, 2026

22. **Report: NASA's Management of Its Radioisotope Power Systems Program** (IG-23-010; 3/20/2023)

Recommendation 1: Create a Radioisotope Power Systems (RPS) resource allocation and technology development strategic plan that includes an evaluation and mitigation of risks for each project through its completion and provide a communication plan to stakeholders and mission managers.

Status: Following the release of the FY 2026 President's Budget Request, the RPS Program's planned strategic realignment has been placed on hold until budget implementation clarity is received. Budget considerations must be concluded prior to the drafting and approval of a formal RPS resource allocation and systems development strategic plan at the RPS Program Director level. The Agency is continuing its consideration of this realignment, drafting, and approval of the new formal strategic plan.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: May 29, 2026

23. **Report: NASA's Management of Its Radioisotope Power Systems Program** (IG-23-010; 3/20/2023)

Recommendation 2: Conduct high quality, frequent, and routine self-assessment technology readiness assessments (TRA) by project management beginning after the initial implementation of a technology development project as a basis for technology readiness level assessment and risk management discussions.

Status: Per NPR 7120.5F, the planned frequency of TRAs for projects within the RPS Program will be updated in alignment with key project milestone reviews, such as Preliminary Design Review (PDR) and CDR. The Next-Generation Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (Next-Gen RTG) project PDR was scheduled for March 2025, but has been delayed and is under evaluation pending budgetary direction. A TRA was conducted in Summer 2024 for the system, and a TRA for the solar powered satellite unicouple itself was held in Summer 2025. An additional TRA is planned in alignment with the CDR, currently scheduled for April 2026.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: May 29, 2026

24. **Report: NASA's Management of Its Radioisotope Power Systems Program** (IG-23-010; 3/20/2023)

Recommendation 3: Per Title 51 and NPR 7120.5F, recalculate the life-cycle costs for Next-Gen RTG and Dynamic Radioisotope Power System (DRPS) projects to include funding NASA provides to Department of Energy (DOE).

Status: As stated in the RPS Program Plan, Sec. 1.5.1.7, the Next-Gen RTG and DRPS are subject to NPR 7120.8, NASA Research and Technology Program and Project Management Requirements, during the technology maturation phase and then subject to NPR 7120.5, once a commitment to a qualification system development has been made.

The DRPS project was canceled in 2023 to redirect funding to more urgent high priority needs in Planetary Science and therefore never made it into a full NPR 7120.5 program. The DRPS project was intended to support technology maturation of high-efficiency dynamic power convertor technologies for future radioisotope power systems. RPS will continue energy conversion research and development to advance state-of-the-art performance in heat to electrical energy conversion.

The Next-Gen RTG Project is subject to NPR 7120.5, and will be managed as required, including requirements for life-cycle costs calculations. Additionally, the partnership with DOE is a reimbursable Interagency Agreement. Funds are sent to DOE for the development of the Next-Gen RTG. The life-cycle costs will be determined in conjunction with the KDP that will follow the DOE contractor design review, currently scheduled for April 2026.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: June 30, 2026

25. **Report: NASA's Management of Its Radioisotope Power Systems Program** (IG-23-010; 3/20/2023)

Recommendation 4: Institute an earned value management process for Next-Gen RTG and DRPS projects that conforms with NASA policy, Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) requirements, and industry best practices.

Status: DOE owns and manages the contracts with commercial industry to build the Next-Gen RTG and DRPS. NASA cannot compel another Federal agency to institute earned value management on their contracts through its own procedural requirements. NASA has limited access to contractor performance data, so any compensating controls process would need to balance the cost of execution with the limited ability of NASA to respond to the results. DOE is not a commercial contractor on which NASA can impose traditional controls and reporting requirements; additionally, these DOE-owned and managed commercial contracts are governed under the DOE FAR Supplement, not the NASA FAR Supplement. NASA will institute a highly tailored compensating controls process for projects governed under NPR 7120.5F in the RPS Program, currently Next-Gen RTG.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: June 30, 2026

26. **Report: NASA's Management of Its Radioisotope Power Systems Program** (IG-23-010; 3/20/2023)

Recommendation 5: For Next-Gen RTG and DRPS development efforts that transition to a space flight project, execute a joint cost and schedule confidence level (JCL) analysis at the proper phases in accordance with NPR 7120.5F.

Status: The DRPS project was subject to NPR 7120.8, however in 2023 the Project was canceled. The Next-Gen RTG project has now transitioned to governance under NPR

7120.5F. A JCL will be performed as required, and evaluation is ongoing in accordance with the project schedule.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: June 30, 2026

27. **Report: NASA's Management of Its Radioisotope Power Systems Program** (IG-23-010; 3/20/2023)

Recommendation 6: In coordination with DOE, develop a means for the RPS Program to obtain high-fidelity plutonium-238 and fueled clad current and future inventory information.

Status: Yearly, as DOE responds to the NASA planning, programming, budgeting, and execution process, they are provided information on NASA needs aligned with NASA baselined and prospective missions. Additional measures have been put in place to prevent unexpected thermal power deficits to a baselined mission. In July 2025, DOE informed NASA that DOE did not have sufficient thermal inventory to provide an in-spec multi-mission radioisotope thermoelectric generator for a baselined mission. After further review by the program, mission, and DOE, a path forward was reached that resulted in the mission being able to meet objectives. To ensure tighter coordination and high-fidelity knowledge, DOE will provide updated best estimate of power, based on production status, to the program and mission at agreed-to milestones. In addition, the SMD Associate Administrator and DOE Principal Deputy Secretary for Nuclear Energy agreed to meet quarterly to improve coordination between the agencies.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: February 27, 2026

28. **Report: NASA's Management of Its Radioisotope Power Systems Program** (IG-23-010; 3/20/2023)

Recommendation 9: Reevaluate the need and if appropriate reauthorize the organizational position of the Nuclear Power and Propulsion System Capability Leadership Team through the appropriate Mission Directorate and provide the Team responsibility for monitoring and advocating strategic nuclear power coordination across NASA.

Status: The need for a Nuclear Power and Propulsion System Capability Leadership Team will be determined in context of the overall restructuring of Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) technical roles and responsibilities. This restructuring will be driven by, and is dependent upon, the priorities and direction of the new Administrator and Agency senior leadership. STMD will evaluate options and tradeoffs regarding the benefit of a Nuclear Power and Propulsion System Capability Leadership Team in conjunction with any reorganizational guidance and direction from Agency leadership.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Technology Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: July 31, 2026

29. Report: Audit of NASA's Deep Space Network (IG-23-016; 7/12/2023)

Recommendation 1: Explore more efficient options for Deep Space Network (DSN) scheduling, such as maintaining a list of DSN users by priority that is updated in real-time and accessible to all users.

Status: Over the past five years, the Space Communication and Navigation (SCaN) Division has worked vigorously to improve DSN scheduling and has explored a wide range of more efficient options. Artemis I Lessons Learned reinforced the need for scheduling improvements. Private Cloud Appliances were upgraded to a new system to support to this requirement. This improved hardware is an enabling capability, providing faster computations, reducing processing time, and enabling multi-scenario schedule planning. This newer hardware has also improved overall reliability and mission scheduling support.

In FY 2025, SCaN funded upgrades that improved the efficiency of DSN scheduling tools and processes. Core upgrades include improved methods for deconflicting operational DSN schedules based on mission requirements, priorities, and preferences. These upgrades also enable rapid scheduling response in the event of late breaking changes, including reducing the antenna swap time to just 45-minutes and enabling a single antenna to act as a backup for more than one Artemis vehicle (i.e., Orion and Human Landing System). Additional funding has been provided for Fast Switching between FYs 2025 and 2026.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Operations Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: March 31, 2026

30. Report: Audit of NASA's Deep Space Network (IG-23-016; 7/12/2023)

Recommendation 2: Ensure completion of the Deep Space Network Aperture Enhancement Project's (DAEP) remaining antennas and transmitters and finalize requirements for the Lunar Exploration Ground Sites (LEGS) project.

Status: DAEP continues to be on schedule for the additional builds. Agency funding in FY 2026 for DAEP is sufficient to support project activities and continued progress remains dependent on future Agency funding decisions.

Procurement of LEGS government antennas has been paused due to funding limitations. The first government antenna build in New Mexico was completed; however, the site remains incomplete without the required supporting systems. The Agency is pursuing procurement of commercial services.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Operations Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: October 31, 2029

31. **Report: Audit of NASA's Deep Space Network (**IG-23-016; 7/12/2023)

Recommendation 3: Finalize international agreements, obtain appropriate clearances for installing the remaining 80 kilowatt transmitters, and establish mechanisms to allow for greater oversight of DAEP project sites.

Status: NASA's restructuring of DAEP oversight has enabled continued project progress. NASA is hiring a full-time civil servant project manager to ensure continued project oversight. In December 2025, NASA completed procurement of the 100 kilowatt klystron required for the 80 kilowatt Transmitter. This is a critical subsystem with long lead times.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Operations Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: October 31, 2029

32. **Report: National Aeronautics and Space Administration Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 Evaluation Report for Fiscal Year 2023**
(IG-23-017; 8/17/2023)

Recommendation 11: Continue to implement the necessary entity-wide oversight to improve enforcement mechanisms and controls to ensure all standard baselines and vulnerabilities are monitored and remediated in accordance with Federal and Agency requirements.

Status: In alignment with Federal and Agency requirements, NASA has improved enforcement processes and established centralized oversight for vulnerability management monitoring and remediation of all standard baselines and vulnerabilities Agency-wide. Reporting has been improved for more granular insight into trends, areas of concern, remediation and escalation.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

Target Completion Date: January 8, 2026

33. **Report: National Aeronautics and Space Administration Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 Evaluation Report for Fiscal Year 2023**
(IG-23-017; 8/17/2023)

Recommendation 20: Continue its efforts to prioritize projects that address the complexities required across EL tiers to meet the intermediate (EL2) maturity level in accordance with OMB Memorandum M-21-31.

Status: The OCIO remains committed to prioritizing initiatives that address the technical and operational requirements across all EL tiers, consistent with our interpretation of OMB Memorandum M-21-31. This includes meeting expectations for Intermediate Logging Categories, publication of standardized log structures, inspection of encrypted data, and intermediate centralized access.

In parallel, NASA continues to engage with the inter-agency logging community to stay informed of how the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and other Federal

agencies are implementing and maturing their M-21-31 capabilities. This collaboration helps inform NASA's strategy, incorporate best practices, and ensure our approach remains aligned with broader Federal direction.

Together, these efforts are intended to establish a clear and achievable path to EL2 maturity while providing a scalable foundation for future progression toward EL3.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of the Chief Information Officer

Target Completion Date: November 30, 2028

34. Report: NASA's Earth System Science Pathfinder Program (IG-23-018; 9/5/2023)

Recommendation 2: Reexamine its selection process to ensure Principal Investigators or their teams have sufficient experience, including project management, and the ability to dedicate necessary resources to effectively manage Earth System Science Pathfinder (ESSP) projects.

Status: SMD has taken a number of actions to improve processes for managing ESSP projects. This includes SMD having reviewed and modified its standard Announcement of Opportunities (AO) template to ensure the experience, capability, and capacity of the project leadership team and management organizations are appropriately factored into the evaluation and selection process. Closure of this recommendation is pending final approval of the AO template.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: March 31, 2026

35. Report: NASA's Earth System Science Pathfinder Program (IG-23-018; 9/5/2023)

Recommendation 7: Develop formal and clear guidance on the roles, responsibilities, and expectations for the inclusion of applications within Earth Venture Class projects.

Status: SMD has taken a number of actions to improve processes for managing ESSP projects. This includes SMD having reviewed and modified its standard AO template to ensure the experience, capability, and capacity of the project leadership team and management organizations are appropriately factored into the evaluation and selection process. Closure of this recommendation is pending final approval of the AO template.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: March 31, 2026

36. Report: NASA's Earth System Science Pathfinder Program (IG-23-018; 9/5/2023)

Recommendation 8: Develop a methodology for funding applications in Earth Venture Class projects.

Status: SMD has taken a number of actions to improve processes for managing ESSP projects. This includes SMD having reviewed and modified its standard AO template to

ensure the experience, capability, and capacity of the project leadership team and management organizations are appropriately factored into the evaluation and selection process. Closure of this recommendation is pending final approval of the AO template.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: March 31, 2026

37. **Report: NASA's Transition of the Space Launch System to a Commercial Services Contract** (IG-24-001; 10/12/2023)

Recommendation 1: Establish achievable cost saving metrics beginning with Artemis IV SLS elements and production contracts.

Status: The FY 2026 President's Budget Request supported an orderly phase out of the NASA SLS program after Artemis III. Subsequently, the WFTC Act provided funding for the procurement, transportation, integration, operation, and other necessary expenses of SLS for Artemis Missions IV and V. NASA is currently evaluating options for executing these funds in support of future Artemis missions, consistent with Congressional direction. Additionally, NASA is assessing the path to eventual procurement of commercial transportation services for Artemis missions.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2027

38. **Report: NASA's Transition of the Space Launch System to a Commercial Services Contract** (IG-24-001; 10/12/2023)

Recommendation 2: Transition the core stage and Exploration Upper Stage contracts to fixed-price contracts with a per mission price to codify the actual costs.

Status: The FY 2026 President's Budget Request supported an orderly phase out of the NASA SLS program after Artemis III. Subsequently, the WFTC Act provided funding for the procurement, transportation, integration, operation, and other necessary expenses of SLS for Artemis Missions IV and V. NASA is currently evaluating options for executing these funds in support of future Artemis missions, consistent with Congressional direction. Additionally, NASA is assessing the path to eventual procurement of commercial transportation services for Artemis missions.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2027

39. **Report: NASA's Transition of the Space Launch System to a Commercial Services Contract** (IG-24-001; 10/12/2023)

Recommendation 3: If keeping contracts as cost-plus-award-fee, increase the percentage of cost as a factor when conducting contractor evaluations for award fee purposes.

Status: The FY 2026 President's Budget Request supported an orderly phase out of the NASA SLS program after Artemis III. Subsequently, the WFTC Act provided funding for the procurement, transportation, integration, operation, and other necessary expenses of SLS for Artemis Missions IV and V. NASA is currently evaluating options for executing these funds in support of future Artemis missions, consistent with Congressional direction. Additionally, NASA is assessing the path to eventual procurement of commercial transportation services for Artemis missions.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2027

40. **Report: NASA's Transition of the Space Launch System to a Commercial Services Contract** (IG-24-001; 10/12/2023)

Recommendation 4: Conduct a detailed review of all contractor-submitted documents to ensure the government's rights to data and processes are not unnecessarily transferred to the contractor.

Status: The FY 2026 President's Budget Request supported an orderly phase out of the NASA SLS program after Artemis III. Subsequently, the WFTC Act provided funding for the procurement, transportation, integration, operation, and other necessary expenses of SLS for Artemis Missions IV and V. NASA is currently evaluating options for executing these funds in support of future Artemis missions, consistent with Congressional direction. Additionally, NASA is assessing the path to eventual procurement of commercial transportation services for Artemis missions.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2027

41. **Report: NASA's Transition of the Space Launch System to a Commercial Services Contract** (IG-24-001; 10/12/2023)

Recommendation 5: Include contract flexibility on future SLS acquisitions that will allow NASA to pivot to other commercial alternatives.

Status: The FY 2026 President's Budget Request supported an orderly phase out of the NASA SLS program after Artemis III. Subsequently, the WFTC Act provided funding for the procurement, transportation, integration, operation, and other necessary expenses of SLS for Artemis Missions IV and V. NASA is currently evaluating options for executing these funds in support of future Artemis missions, consistent with

Congressional direction. Additionally, NASA is assessing the path to eventual procurement of commercial transportation services for Artemis missions.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2027

42. **Report: NASA's Transition of the Space Launch System to a Commercial Services Contract** (IG-24-001; 10/12/2023)

Recommendation 6: For each Artemis SLS rocket under Exploration Production and Operations Contract (EPOC), add compensation to the Deep Space Transport, LLC contract such as incentive fees for when the contractor achieves specific cost saving goals.

Status: The FY 2026 President's Budget Request supports an orderly phase out of the NASA SLS program after Artemis III. Subsequently, the WFTC Act provided funding for the procurement, transportation, integration, operation, and other necessary expenses of SLS for Artemis Missions IV and V. NASA is currently evaluating options for executing these funds in support of future Artemis missions, consistent with Congressional direction. Additionally, NASA is assessing the path to eventual procurement of commercial transportation services for Artemis missions.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2027

43. **Report: NASA's Transition of the Space Launch System to a Commercial Services Contract** (IG-24-001; 10/12/2023)

Recommendation 7: Ensure Government Mandatory Inspection Points and government oversight teams remain throughout the EPOC transition period.

Status: The FY 2026 President's Budget Request supported an orderly phase out of the NASA SLS program after Artemis III. Subsequently, the WFTC Act provided funding for the procurement, transportation, integration, operation, and other necessary expenses of SLS for Artemis Missions IV and V. NASA is currently evaluating options for executing these funds in support of future Artemis missions, consistent with Congressional direction. Additionally, NASA is assessing the path to eventual procurement of commercial transportation services for Artemis missions.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2027

44. Report: NASA's Management of the Artemis Supply Chain (IG-24-003; 10/19/2023)

Recommendation 6: Incorporate a representative from the Logistics Management Division into each Artemis-related program and project at appropriate milestones, including at the onset of a contract and each life-cycle milestone.

Status: The Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate will work closely with NASA procurement officials to support integration of logistics management experts at a contract's onset. At this time, no major acquisitions have been initiated that require logistics management.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2026

45. Report: Audit of the Mars Sample Return Program (IG-24-008; 2/28/2024)

Recommendation 1: Ensure the Mars Sample Return (MSR) Program establishes a stable Capture, Containment, and Return System design prior to establishing the life-cycle cost and schedule estimate at KDP-C, incorporating recommendations from the 2023 Independent Review Board as appropriate.

Status: Funding for the MSR Program was not included in NASA's FY 2026 appropriations. Thus, SMD considers this recommendation overcome by events. NASA is working closely with OIG to provide additional documentation to support closure consideration.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: August 31, 2026

46. Report: Audit of the Mars Sample Return Program (IG-24-008; 2/28/2024)

Recommendation 2: Ensure the life-cycle cost and schedule estimates properly incorporate MSR Program complexity and performance as factors and do not only focus on external cost growth impacts and ongoing design issues.

Status: Funding for the MSR Program was not included in NASA's FY 2026 appropriations. Thus, SMD considers this recommendation overcome by events. NASA is working closely with OIG to provide additional documentation to support closure consideration.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: August 31, 2026

47. Report: Audit of the Mars Sample Return Program (IG-24-008; 2/28/2024)

Recommendation 3: Ensure the Agency Program Management Council is provided with a set of potential launch scenarios by KDP-C, including life-cycle cost and schedule estimates and an associated JCL for each.

Status: Funding for the MSR Program was not included in NASA's FY 2026 appropriations. Thus, SMD considers this recommendation overcome by events. NASA is working closely with OIG to provide additional documentation to support closure consideration.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: August 31, 2026

48. Report: Audit of NASA's High-End Computing Capabilities (IG-24-009; 3/14/2024)

Recommendation 5: The NASA Associate Administrator establish a tiger team to evaluate cyber risks associated with high-end computing (HEC) assets to determine oversight and monitoring requirements, establish risk appetite, and address control deficiencies. Consider using NASA's Splunk enterprise platform as a shared resource.

Status: The Tiger Team concluded in January 2025 and made recommendations to implement Splunk or a similar tool and to evaluate risks within existing cybersecurity frameworks. Implementation of these recommendations is in progress.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Chief Program Management Officer

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2026

49. Report: Audit of NASA's High-End Computing Capabilities (IG-24-009; 3/14/2024)

Recommendation 6: NASA Associate Administrator establish a tiger team to implement an HEC classification/category designation within Risk Information Security Compliance System (RISCS) for identifying HEC assets.

Status: The addition of a HEC category within RISCS has been approved by the RISCS Control Change Board. The addition of this category is currently in development with the RISCS Team and will be implemented during FY 2026.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Chief Program Management Officer

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2026

50. Report: Audit of NASA's High-End Computing Capabilities (IG-24-009; 3/14/2024)

Recommendation 8: The NASA Associate Administrator establish a tiger team to document data risk impact levels, classification, and export control categorization for all HEC jobs.

Status: The Tiger Team concluded in January 2025 and made recommendations regarding data risk impact levels, classification, and export control categorization. Implementation of these recommendations is in progress.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Chief Program Management Officer

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2026

51. **Report: Audit of NASA's High-End Computing Capabilities** (IG-24-009; 3/14/2024)

Recommendation 9: The NASA Associate Administrator establish a tiger team to Identify and mitigate gaps in the foreign national accreditation access process.

Status: The Tiger Team concluded in January 2025 and made recommendations to conduct an audit of foreign national access and develop revised processes with the OPS and Identity, Credential, Access Management. Implementation of these recommendations is in progress.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Chief Program Management Officer

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2026

52. **Report: Audit of NASA's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Engagement** (IG-24-010; 4/25/2024)

Recommendation 1: Re-evaluate the Office of STEM Engagement (OSTEM) performance goals to ensure they are distinct and well correlated with outcomes.

Status: OSTEM's Performance and Evaluation team is in the process of developing new performance goals that align with its Congressional mandates and administration priorities, while ensuring goals are distinct and well correlated with outcomes. OSTEM's performance goals will also be informed by NASA's current strategic planning process.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of STEM Engagement

Target Completion Date: March 31, 2026

53. **Report: Audit of NASA's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Engagement** (IG-24-010; 4/25/2024)

Recommendation 2: Develop a procedure to ensure OSTEM tracks and reports funding for all Agency Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) engagement activities.

Status: A Tiger Team comprised of representatives from OSTEM, NASA Mission Directorates, and NASA Centers was formed and undertook significant effort to identify appropriate guidelines, thresholds, and scope for identifying and tracking STEM engagement investments. OSTEM looks to close-out this recommendation after final, senior-level input from NASA's Mission Directorates and Centers.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of STEM Engagement

Target Completion Date: April 30, 2026

54. **Report: Audit of NASA's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Engagement** (IG-24-010; 4/25/2024)

    Recommendation 5: Re-evaluate jurisdictions eligible for Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research funds to ensure effective and equitable distribution of Agency funds.

    Status: OSTEM completed an analysis of its awards and consulted with NASA's Office of the General Counsel. OSTEM looks to close-out its actions for this recommendation after further input from NASA's senior leadership, including from the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs and OCFO.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of STEM Engagement

    Target Completion Date: February 27, 2026

55. **Report: Audit of NASA's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Engagement** (IG-24-010; 4/25/2024)

    Recommendation 6: Require all NASA organizations capture STEM engagement activities in STEM Gateway.

    Status: Significant effort was undertaken to address this recommendation, and progress was made toward full implementation. Additional NASA organizations are now using STEM Gateway. OSTEM looks to close-out this recommendation after final, senior-level input from NASA's Mission Directorates and Centers.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Office of STEM Engagement

    Target Completion Date: April 30, 2026

56. **Report: NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services Initiative** (IG-24-013; 6/6/2024)

    Recommendation 2: Reassess NASA's role in, and contribution to, the commercial lunar delivery market.

    Status: The CLPS project is currently under consideration for realignment within NASA, subject to final forthcoming direction from Agency leadership following the conclusion of the FY 2026 budget appropriations process. Once a realignment decision is finalized following a FY 2026 full year budget, SMD will work, as directed, to support transfer of the CLPS Project funding out of SMD.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

    Target Completion Date: March 31, 2026

57. **Report: NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services Initiative** (IG-24-013; 6/6/2024)

Recommendation 3: Finalize a management plan with clear leadership authority and responsibility that would delineate CLPS initiative performance goals and metrics that are measurable and targeted, criteria for augmented insight, a formal lessons-learned process, and any other relevant guidelines for the management plan's implementation.

Status: The CLPS 2.0 RFI release was delayed from early October 2025 to January 5, 2026, due to the government shutdown. SMD's Exploration Science Strategy and Integration Office intends to use the RFI responses as part of its response to this recommendation.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Science Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: April 30, 2026

58. Report: NASA's Management of the Mobile Launcher 2 Project (IG-24-016; 8/27/2024)

Recommendation 1: Ensure lessons learned from the ML-2's acquisition, contract, and project management are codified to inform future development efforts.

Status: The FY 2026 President's Budget Request supported an orderly phase out of the NASA SLS and EGS programs after Artemis III, which included ML-2 development. Subsequently, the WFTC Act provided funding for the procurement, transportation, integration, operation, and other necessary expenses of SLS for Artemis Missions IV and V. NASA is currently evaluating options for executing these funds in support of future Artemis missions, consistent with Congressional direction, including options for the ML-2 project.

Upon completion or cancellation of the ML-2 project, the EGS Program will conduct an ML-2 knowledge capture lessons learned study and document the results, which will be submitted to the ML-2 stakeholders for future use consistent with the OIG recommendation.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: February 29, 2028

59. Report: NASA's Management of the Mobile Launcher 2 Project (IG-24-016; 8/27/2024)

Recommendation 2: Conduct a thorough analysis of the feasibility of utilizing the fixed-price option, and if NASA determines that it will not be exercised, remove the option from the ML-2 contract.

Status: The FY 2026 President's Budget Request supported an orderly phase out of the NASA SLS and EGS programs after Artemis III, which included ML-2 development. Subsequently, the WFTC Act provided funding for the procurement, transportation, integration, operation, and other necessary expenses of SLS for Artemis Missions IV and V. NASA is currently evaluating options for executing these funds in support of future Artemis missions, consistent with Congressional direction, including options for the ML-2 project.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: December 31, 2026

60. Report: NASA's Rocket Propulsion Test Program (IG-24-018; 9/24/2024)

Recommendation 1: Establish a requirement in the Rocket Propulsion Test (RPT) Program Plan for recurring right-size studies for the RPT capability portfolio and use the results to reexamine workforce and capability requirements for the future.

Status: The RPT Program is considering alternatives to close this recommendation as the Program prefers to defer pursuing changes to its Program Plan or higher-level policy documents, particularly during this period of budget uncertainty and when no significant changes in program scope or strategy have occurred. An alternative approach being considered is to implement the recommendation through a policy memorandum issued at the Mission Directorate level with direction to the RPT Program. The policy would be effective immediately upon issuance of the memorandum and would remain in effect until superseded or incorporated into formal program documentation as appropriate.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Operations Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: March 30, 2026

61. Report: NASA's Rocket Propulsion Test Program (IG-24-018; 9/24/2024)

Recommendation 4: Document the results and planned RPT actions following completion of the Commercial Capability Survey.

Status: The Commercial Capability Survey was publicly distributed in April 2025 and successfully documented existing test capabilities, assessed outsourcing potential, and identified future needs in hypergolic propellant testing, methane-related testing, solid rocket motor testing, and reusable launch system testing. The RPT Program is preparing the U.S. Rocket Capabilities report; however, progress has been delayed due to reduced staffing, the recent government shutdown, and budget uncertainty.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Operations Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: March 31, 2026

62. Report: NASA's Management of Risks to Sustaining International Space Station Operations through 2030 (IG-24-020; 9/26/2024)

Recommendation 1: Report on NASA's progress to reexamine available orbital debris tracking tools and offices to ensure all practicable data sources are leveraged to inform ISS operations and ensure crew safety.

Status: The Orbital Debris Program Office (ODPO) continues to use its modeling tools to assess risks from new on-orbit fragmentation events to the ISS. The ODPO is also in the process of upgrading the Orbital Debris Engineering Model to version 4.0, which will be released in early 2027 to support the ISS and other NASA missions.

Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Operations Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: March 31, 2027

63. **Report: NASA's Management of Risks to Sustaining International Space Station Operations through 2030** (IG-24-020; 9/26/2024)

    Recommendation 2: Document safety contingency plans and vehicle reassignment rules to help ensure the safe return of crew in the event of an emergency—expanding these efforts to include damage to the Crew Dragon and Starliner.

    Status: NASA is awaiting the final results of the Starliner Crew Flight Test investigation in order to incorporate lessons learned. The investigation out-brief is scheduled on January 29, 2026, and then NASA will develop a Corrective Action Plan.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Operations Mission Directorate

    Target Completion Date: December 31, 2026

64. **Report: NASA's Management of Risks to Sustaining International Space Station Operations through 2030** (IG-24-020; 9/26/2024)

    Recommendation 3: Develop plans that reflect potential cost savings measures and anticipated reductions in operations for ISS decommissioning.

    Status: NASA continues to monitor the dynamic budget environment, which has complicated finalizing cost avoidance and savings priorities. However, budgetary normalization is expected early in FY 2026 to better inform NASA's response.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Operations Mission Directorate

    Target Completion Date: June 30, 2026

65. **Report: NASA's Management of Risks to Sustaining International Space Station Operations through 2030** (IG-24-020; 9/26/2024)

    Recommendation 4: Update the controlled deorbit plan and ensure the plan includes key commitments, technical, schedule, and cost challenges impacting the 2031 deorbit time frame.

    Status: The ISS Program has advanced the U.S. Deorbit Vehicle development, enabling more substantive technical interchange meetings to finalize the comprehensive de-orbit scenario plan. Concurrently, ISS Program is working with ISS partners to identify programmatic milestones necessary for evaluating cost distribution and risk acceptance based on the finalized plan. ISS partners maintain varying go/no-go decision points between late 2026 and mid-2027 for final approval of plans and related implementing arrangements. The Space Operations Mission Directorate will continue engagement with ISS partners and incorporate their input into the deorbit plan.

    Office of Primary Responsibility: Space Operations Mission Directorate

Target Completion Date: June 30, 2027

Appendix D: Reconciliation of Agency Records with NASA OIG Semiannual Report and GAO's Database of Open Recommendations

Reconciliation with NASA OIG's Fall 2025 Semiannual Report Public Reports and Recommendations Open for One Year or More (As of 12/31/2025)		
	Reports	**Recommendations**
Total Open Public Reports and Recommendations as of 9/30/2025 in Table 3 of OIG's Fall 2025 Semiannual Report [a]	**29**	**77**
Less: Open Public Reports and Recommendations in Table 3 Issued Between 1/1/25 and 3/31/25 [b]	(1)	(4)
Net Public Reports and Recommendations Open One Year or More in Table 3	**28**	**73**
Less: Public Reports and Recommendations in Table 3 Closed Between 10/1/25 – 12/31/25 [c]	(1)	(8)
Total Public Reports and Recommendations Open One Year or More as of 12/31/2025 per Agency Records	**27**	**65**

[a] Table 3, "Audit Recommendations Yet to be Implemented, Previous Semiannual Report" of NASA OIG's semiannual report can be found at https://oig.nasa.gov/office-of-inspector-general-oig/semiannual-reports/semiannual-report-to-congress-fall-2025/.

[b] Report IG-25-004.

[c] The recommendation for report IG-21-011 was closed. Additionally, 7 recommendations from reports IG-23-017, IG-24-015, and IG-24-018 were also closed; however, other recommendations remain open in those reports as disclosed in Appendix C.

Reconciliation with GAO's Database of Open Recommendations Public Reports and Recommendations Open for One Year or More (As of 12/31/2025)		
	Reports	**Recommendations**
Total Open Public Reports and Recommendations per GAO's Database of Open Recommendations [a]	**22**	**45**
Less: Open Public Reports and Recommendations Issued Between 1/1/25 and Present [b]	(1)	(16)
Total Public Reports and Recommendations Open One Year or More as of 12/31/2025 per Agency Records	**21**	**29**

[a] GAO's Database of Open Recommendations provides status only as of the date of query. NASA queried the database January 2, 2026. The database is located at https://www.gao.gov/reports-testimonies/recommendations-database.

[b] Report GAO-25-108138.

Appendix E: Glossary of Acronyms

Acronym	Description
3D	Three-Dimensional
AO	Announcement of Opportunities
AI	Artificial Intelligence
CDR	Critical Design Review
CIO	Chief Information Officer
CLPS	Commercial Lunar Payload Services
CO	Contracting Officer
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
DAEP	Deep Space Network Aperture Enhancement Project
DOE	Department of Energy
DRPS	Dynamic Radioisotope Power System
DSN	Deep Space Network
EGS	Exploration Ground Systems
EL	Event Logging
EM-2	Exploration Mission 2
EPOC	Exploration Production and Operations Contract
ESSP	Earth System Science Pathfinder
FAR	Federal Acquisition Regulation
FY	Fiscal Year
GAO	Government Accountability Office
HEC	High-End Computing
iCDR	integrated Critical Design Review
ISS	International Space Station
IT	Information Technology
JCL	Joint Cost and Schedule Confidence Level
KDP	Key Decision Point
LEGS	Lunar Exploration Ground Sites
ML-2	Mobile Launcher 2
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSR	Mars Sample Return
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Next-Gen RTG	Next-Generation Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator
NID	NASA Interim Directive
NISAR	NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar
NPR	NASA Procedural Requirements
OCE	Office of the Chief Engineer
OCFO	Office of the Chief Financial Officer
OCIO	Office of the Chief Information Officer
ODPO	Orbital Debris Program Office

Acronym	Description
OIG	Office of Inspector General
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OPS	Office of Protective Services
OSTEM	Office of STEM Engagement
PDR	Preliminary Design Review
PM	Program Manager
P/PM	Program/Project Manager
PrK	Service Module Transfer Tunnel
RFI	Request for Information
RISCS	Risk Information Security Compliance System
RPS	Radioisotope Power Systems
RPT	Rocket Propulsion Test
SAOGI	Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information
SCaN	Space Communication and Navigation
SLS	Space Launch System
SMD	Science Mission Directorate
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
STMD	Space Technology Mission Directorate
SWOT	Surface Water and Topography
TRA	Technology Readiness Assessment
VIPER	Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover
WFTC	Working Families Tax Cut Act