National Aeronautics and Space Administration

# International Cooperation at NASA

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# International Cooperation: Current Guidelines

- NASA international partners are generally government agencies due to the significant level of investment and legal requirements
- Each Partner funds its respective contributions, but contributions need not be equivalent
- Cooperation must be consistent with foreign policy objectives of each Partner
- Projects/Partnerships:
  - Must have scientific and technical merit and meet NASA program objectives
  - Must be mutually beneficial (demonstrate specific benefit to each Partner)
  - Are structured to protect against unwarranted technology transfer
  - Are structured to establish clearly defined managerial and technical interfaces to minimize complexity
  - Are documented in a written, binding agreement, closely coordinated with the U.S. Department of State and other U.S. government agencies as needed

# Why Do We Need International Agreements?

- International Agreements are tools that:
  - Clarify responsibilities of the partners
  - Confirm commitments and terms
  - Document the quid pro quo and benefits of the cooperation
  - Protect investment and interests, such as:
    - Technical data rights
    - Intellectual property rights
    - Allocation of risk – cross-waiver of liability
  - Allow import/export of technical data and goods
  - Confirm arrangements to meet international obligations, such as UN Registration Convention, if necessary

# When Do We Draft International Agreements?

- International Agreements are drafted *after* final selections are made; agreements are not typically drafted for Phase-A Studies
- International Agreements are not required for proposals or Concept Study Reports
- Non-U.S. Participation Requirements are detailed in sections 5.7 and 5.8 of the AO
- If the AO proposal is from a foreign entity – or if U.S. AO proposal includes foreign participation – a Letter of Commitment is needed from the foreign partner's government agency or funding institution, acknowledging the activity and preferably indicating sufficient funds will be made available
- Note: International Agreements will likely take several months to put into place!

# NASA's International Agreements

- NASA's International Agreements do NOT trump export control laws & regulations

**An International Agreement does not replace a contractor's need for a Technical Assistance Agreement**

# Thank You

## Office of International and Interagency Relations (OIIR)

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