National Aeronautics and Space Administration

International Cooperation Overview

SMEX Kick-Off

Peyton Blackstock
Office of International and Interagency Relations

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NASA's Heritage

- International collaboration is a cornerstone of NASA's activities throughout its history
- Directed by National Aeronautics and Space Act that created NASA in 1958
- Over 6,900 completed agreements with over 135 countries/organizations
- Pursued for a variety of reasons, from choice and necessity

Current Guidelines

- NASA international partners are generally government agencies due to significance of investment and legal requirements
- No exchange of funds; each partner funds its contributions, which need not be equal
- Consistent with U.S. foreign policy objectives
- Has scientific and technical merit and is consistent with known levels of capability
- Demonstrates a specific benefit to NASA/supports Mission Directorate activities
- Is structured with clearly defined technical interfaces to protect sensitive technology and maintain U.S. competitive advantage

Specific cooperative activities are documented in written, legally binding agreements, closely coordinated with the U.S. Department of State

International Space Act Agreements

- The National Aeronautics and Space Act grants NASA the authority to enter into Space Act Agreements with a wide range of entities, both domestic and international, to advance its mission.

- The Office of International and Interagency Relations (OIIR) coordinates all international space act agreements for the Agency.

- Until an appropriate IA is signed, NASA should not:
  - commit resources,
  - share sensitive information or technology,
  - exchange equipment, or
  - share use of facilities.

When is an Agreement needed?

Generally Below Agreement Threshold

- Publicly available information
- Mission objectives, requirements, specifications, anything that would be in an unclassified RFI/RFP
- General, non-export-controlled interface information
- Performance parameters and Mission Goals
- General system descriptions (size, speed, radiation, etc.)
- Discussions about 'What' are generally acceptable.

Generally Above Agreement Threshold

- Interface information that describes how to integrate two components/systems
- Interface information that bleeds into assembly discussions
- Export-controlled information
- Discussions on ‘How’

Consult with OIIR for any international activity, especially for discussion about “how”

Life Cycle of a New Agreement

- Drafting
- NASA Internal Review
- State Department/Interagency Review
- Partner Review
- Negotiation
- Final approval
  - NASA
  - State Department
  - Partner
- Signature

Timeline

- Generally international agreements should be in place by PDR/KDP-C
- Currently new agreements are taking 1 year+ from start to completion
- Approach OIIR as soon as possible but at least one year ahead of the date of PDR to get the process started

The Wolf Amendment and China Restrictions

- Per Public Law 119-74, commonly referred to as the Wolf Amendment, NASA appropriated funds may not be used to **"develop, design, plan, promulgate, implement, or execute a bilateral policy, program, order, or contract of any kind to participate, collaborate, or coordinate bilaterally in any way with China or any Chinese-owned company."**
  - Restriction is affiliation-based.
  - This includes bilateral publication of papers with researchers at Chinese universities or research institutions.
- In addition to the Wolf Amendment, there are also other NASA policies and USG regulations that prohibit engagements with China, in alignment with U.S. Foreign Policy and the "Ensuring American Space Superiority" Executive Order.

When it comes to questions about China, ALWAYS stop before acting and contact OIIR to ensure actions are aligned with NASA regulations and policies.

Questions?

peyton.e.blackstock@nasa.gov