

International Cooperation at NASA

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NASA International Cooperation



- **Since 1958, NASA has concluded over 4000 agreements with over 100 nations and international organizations**
- **Cooperation now established with every region in the world**
- **Every Mission Directorate has international partnerships**
- **Of the approximately 48 SMD-led missions in operation, 29 have international contributions**
- **SMD is also participating in an additional 18 foreign-led operating science missions**
- **NASA follows foreign policy guidance from the Department of State**



- **Current international cooperation:**
 - **Over 450 active international agreements**
 - **10 partners account for 50% of the agreements (France, Germany, ESA, Japan, UK, Italy, Canada, Russia, Australia, Spain)**

Why International Cooperation?



The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 directs NASA to conduct its activities so as to contribute materially to:

- “Cooperation by the United States with other nations and groups of nations in work done pursuant to the Act and in the peaceful application of the results thereof.”

Benefits of international cooperation:

- **Combining of financial resources**
- **Access to foreign capabilities or geography**
 - Adds unique capability and/or expertise
 - Increases mission flight opportunities
 - Enhances the scientific return
- **Promote U.S. foreign policy interests**

Cooperation Guidelines



- **Cooperation must be mutually beneficial**
- **Must have scientific/technical merit and meet NASA programmatic objectives**
- **International partners fund their respective contributions – not eligible for NASA funding**
- **If AO proposal is from a foreign entity – or if U.S. AO proposal includes foreign participation - a strong letter of endorsement is needed from the foreign partner's government agency or funding institution, acknowledging the activity and preferably indicating sufficient funds will be made available**



- **International partners are generally government agencies, but occasionally are universities or other institutes**
- **Contributions need not be equivalent**
- **Clearly defined and distinct managerial and technical interfaces**
- **Protects against unwarranted technology transfer and takes into account industrial competitiveness**
- **Cooperation to be documented in a written, specific agreement when needed**

Challenges to Cooperation



Management complexity

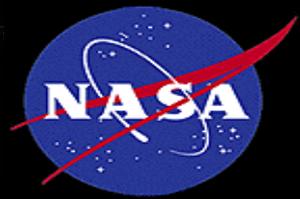
- Decision-making is more complex
- Communications difficulties
- Differing specifications, standards and assumptions

Technical and programmatic risk

- Interdependence – the “critical path” issue
- Interfaces are difficult to manage at a distance; it’s harder to monitor progress and get early warning of problems
- Multiple partners with multiple interfaces adds complexity

Political risk

- Budgetary and bureaucratic uncertainties
- Potential linkage to political activities or economic problems



Why Do We Need Agreements?

- ***International Agreements are tools that:***
 - clarify responsibilities of the partners
 - confirm commitments and terms
 - document the quid pro quo (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
- ***Note : International Agreements will likely take several months to put into place!***



- 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



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