National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

May 10, 2007

Reply to Attn of: Office of Chief Engineer

TO: Officials-in-Charge of Headquarters Offices
Directors, NASA Centers

FROM: NASA Chief Engineer

SUBJECT: NASA Technical Fellows Program

The NASA Technical Fellows Program was established to recognize technical excellence and technical leadership in the Agency. NASA Technical Fellows will serve as members of the NASA Engineering and Safety Center (NESC), but will remain resident and actively engaged at their Centers. They will provide a resource for independent test, analysis and evaluation of the Agency's most difficult problems, provide technical leadership, stewardship, and serve as role models for NASA discipline engineering communities, increase the focus on technical excellence Agency-wide, and provide technical consistency across NASA.

NASA Technical Fellows will serve in senior grade (ST--Scientific/Technical) temporary positions for which they will be competitively selected. Their tenure will be for a 2-year time period with the option for three 1-year extensions.

The NASA Technical Fellows Program will be managed by the NESC. A phased implementation will be used -- the first 12 NASA Technical Fellows are the existing NESC Discipline Experts. Vacancy announcements for an additional seven disciplines will be advertised over the next 2 fiscal years. Additional disciplines being advertised this fiscal year are Electrical Power, Flight Mechanics, Passive Thermal, and Space Environments. Vacancy announcements for Cryogenics, Sensors/Instrumentation, and Systems Engineering will follow in the near-term. The need for additional Technical Fellows will be evaluated semi-annually and reviewed at the Engineering Management Board (EMB).

I inducted the first class of NASA Technical Fellows at a ceremony on April 11, 2007 at the Virginia Air and Space Center in Hampton, Virginia. Our first NASA Technical Fellows are:

Michael L. Aguilar, the NASA Technical Fellow for Software. Michael's parent Center is the Goddard Space Flight Center and he has been an NESC Discipline Expert since November 2005.

Mitchell L. Davis, the NASA Technical Fellow for Avionics. Mitch's parent Center is the Goddard Space Flight Center and he has been an NESC Discipline Expert since March 2007.

Cornelius J. Dennehy, the NASA Technical Fellow for Guidance Navigation and Control. Neil's parent Center is the Goddard Space Flight Center and he has been an NESC Discipline Expert since February 2005.

George D. Hopson, the NASA Technical Fellow for Propulsion. George's parent Center is the Marshall Space Flight Center and he has been an NESC Discipline Expert since the inception of the NESC in November 2003.

Dr. Curtis E. Larsen, the NASA Technical Fellow for Loads and Dynamics. Curt's parent Center is the Johnson Space Center and he has been an NESC Discipline Expert since November 2005.

John P. McManamen, the NASA Technical Fellow for Mechanical Systems. John's parent Center is the Johnson Space Center and he has been an NESC Discipline Expert since November 2003.

Dr. Cynthia H. Null, the NASA Technical Fellow for Human Factors. Cynthia's parent Center is the Ames Research Center and she has been an NESC Discipline Expert since November 2003.

Dr. Robert S. Piascik, the NASA Technical Fellow for Materials. Bob's parent Center is the Langley Research Center and he has been an NESC Discipline Expert since November 2003.

Dr. William H. Prosser, the NASA Technical Fellow for Nondestructive Evaluation. Bill's parent Center is the Langley Research Center and he has been an NESC Discipline Expert since November 2005.

Dr. Ivatury S. Raju, the NASA Technical Fellow for Structures. Raju's parent Center is the Langley Research Center and he has been an NESC Discipline Expert since November 2003.

Henry A. Rotter, NASA Technical Fellow for Life Support/Active Thermal. Hank's parent Center is the Johnson Space Center and he has been an NESC Discipline Expert since November 2003.

Dr. David M. Schuster, the NASA Technical Fellow for Aerosciences. Dave's parent Center is the Langley Research Center and he has been an NESC Discipline Expert since January 2007.

This new program emphasizes the importance of technical excellence and leadership in our Agency. Your continued support is vital to the success of the NASA Technical Fellows Program.

Christopher J. Scolese

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