



Ames Research Center

in Silicon Valley



A Time of Great Change: State of the Center

All Hands Meeting

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NASA Goals and Priorities

- **Mike Griffin's Testimony and Public Statements make priorities clear:**
 - Operate the Shuttle safely to 2010
 - “Finish” the International Space Station
 - Develop a Crew Exploration Vehicle, Crew Launch Vehicle, heavy lift
 - Prepare for Human exploration of the Moon
 - Rebalance Science
 - Create an engaging Aeronautics program within funding limits
- **To meet these goals, funding has been significantly shifted**
 - Technology budget (~\$1B) has been redirected toward CEV
 - Life Science work has been refocused on LEO and short Lunar visits
 - Mars missions eliminated to help earth science and space physics
 - Aeronautics “demo” project strategy being revisited

The major new element of the Vision is to explore with humans beyond LEO



Other Recent Changes at NASA HQs

• Exploration Systems

- Many personnel changes, Doug Cooke acting AA
- Pulled back BAAs, RFP for CEV and created studies like Exploration Systems Architecture Study (ESAS) to chart new course
- ESAS study to be released soon

• Space Operations

- Bill Gerstenmeier new AA
- Still struggling to cope with Shuttle foam problem, number of Shuttle flights to 2010 a major question
- Finishing ISS a source of debate in the nation
- Launching Centrifuge Accommodation Module very uncertain

• Science

- New AA (Cleave) and DAA (Hartmann)
- Mars missions deleted (Mars Sample Return, Telecom Orbiter, precursors)
- Funding moved to earth science

• Aeronautics

- Senior Advisor for Aeronautics named (Porter)
- Future directions for Aero under review for FY07 budget submission



Initial Impact of NASA Priorities on Ames

• Research and Technology (examples)

- Ames work in Information Systems was generally aimed at Mars exploration, science missions and longer term research
 - › Work radically reduced to fund CEV
- Thermal Protection development did not fare well in BAA process
- Human Factors research cut substantially by Aeronautics

• Science

- Full cost recovery process continues to plague PIs
- Ames roles in space/earth science OK for now, Astrobiology level-funded
- Life Science at Ames being dramatically refocused and descoped

• Aeronautics

- Air Traffic Management has been stable, but direction depends on JPDO
- Possible opportunity for investment in fundamental aeronautics

• Projects

- Kepler moving ahead - passed confirmation review
- SOFIA being restructured to get to first flight via solid budget and schedule
- Space Station Biological Research Project unfunded in FY06



Ames Response to New Directions

Objectives of Center Management

- **Ames must secure a role in NASA's priority areas**
 - Focus of Center work needs to move to align with more near-term development needs
- **Critical that Ames re-establish a role in flight hardware project management**
- **Need to mitigate the effects of full cost recovery on facilities**
- **Uncovered capacity must not be allowed to lead to skyrocketing overhead rates**
- **Scientist competitiveness and the collateral impact of full cost recovery required for proposals to be addressed**



Current Status

Good news thus far:

- **Ames has been assigned the Robotic Lunar Exploration Program**
 - In discussion for a substantial role in next Lunar mission
- **CEV project manager has agreed to incorporate Ames TPS and IT expertise into the CEV development**
- **Mike Griffin has stated that primary beneficiaries of the Vision (SSC, JSC, MSFC and KSC) cannot hire without consideration of ARC, LaRC, GRC**
 - Process underway to identify more human space flight work for ARC/GRC/LaRC
- **A Shared Capability Asset Program is being established**
 - Support base will allow capabilities to charge customers marginal cost
 - Initial capabilities are rocket propulsion testing, wind tunnels, high end computing and thermal vacuum chambers
 - Other capabilities (e.g. arc-jets, simulators) will be considered next
- **Full cost impacts on scientist competitiveness to be considered as part of Systems Engineering and Institutional Transition Team study**
- **An Agency-wide transition process will be established for uncovered Civil Servants for FY06 (only)**



Current Status (continued)

Challenges

- **Original budget decrease from FY 04 to FY 07 (projected in March) was about (\$250 to 300M)**
- **Current budget reduction is still \approx \$250M**
- **After all the puts and takes (reductions and new work assignments), there is still an FY 06 uncovered workforce at Ames of \approx 700 people**
 - \approx 300 Civil Servants and \approx 400 Contractors

Plans for the next year

- **Immediately initiating major reductions in on-site contractor workforce**
- **Developing a new Civil Service transition workforce pool for FY 06**
 - Will make every effort to find new work for CS staff either at Ames or elsewhere in NASA
- **CS Workforce that cannot be placed will face a RIF in FY 07**
 - Notices will be sent out June 2006



Summary and Final Thoughts

- **Ames is not closing and we are not being starved out.**
- **However, there is much pain to come in the next few years as NASA makes the most sweeping changes in 35 years**
- **All of us need to do the following:**
 - Aggressively pursue new business opportunities
 - Seriously consider all personal career options (e.g. retirement - if relevant, jobs at other Centers, re-training, buyout, etc.)
 - Use transition workforce process to find new positions
- **Ames will be part of the mainstream, critical path of the Agency in exploring the solar system and beyond, and conducting leading edge scientific and aeronautics research**
- **If we all work together we can manage our way through this valley and come out the other side stronger and healthier**