

CCSDS Secretariat Office

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##### December 3, 2015

Individual's Name

Address

##### ***Advancing Technology With International Agreements To Use That Technology***

##### Dear <Agency Management>,

Very few efforts to develop advanced technology can say that they also simultaneously achieve international agreements to use that technology. The Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS) does exactly that.

NASA has an important role in the CCSDS. This message is to recognize that role, to thank NASA management for the support, and to ask you to consider whether NASA should place additional resources in this critical work. This is especially important now, considering the upcoming needs of NASA’s missions.

CCSDS develops advanced technology standards that establish ***data and communications interoperability*** between the many spaceflight missions of the spacefaring nations of the world. Ultimately, for NASA’s missions, this provides the opportunity for a greater degree of international collaboration, lowering the burden of cost for any one agency to conduct space operations and science research.

Unfortunately, the fact is that many agencies have had budget reductions that have reduced this important work over the last several years. Many CCSDS advanced technology projects are on hold or closed out because of lack of resources. We ask you to confer with NASA’s CCSDS teams to find out where NASA can apply additional resources, to bring long-term benefit, ***advanced technology and international cooperation*** to NASA’s future missions.

Of all technologies, Data and Communications technology is the most essential for international coordination. And that technology is advancing rapidly. CCSDS can tame the risk of these new technologies by putting more eyes on the problem and vetting it with the international community. We have developed the enclosed brochure that spells out why and how CCSDS does this important work. In particular, make note of the centerfold, which lays out the total scope of CCSDS work in an end-to-end mission architecture. I’m sure you can find many technology areas that are critical to NASA missions, to which NASA teams can contribute even more.

If further information on CCSDS would be helpful, please feel free to contact me or NASA’s CCSDS Management Council representative, or browse our website at [www.CCSDS.org](http://www.CCSDS.org).

Sincerely,

Dr. James Afarin

CCSDS Chairman and General Secretary

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Copy: XXX, XXX, CCSDS Management Council Representative