

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Office of the Administrator
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Washington, DC 20546-0001



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

FROM: Administrator

SUBJECT: NASA Administrator's Intent for 2023

NASA had an historic year in 2022. We unfolded the universe with the James Webb Space Telescope, achieved a watershed moment for planetary protection with the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) impact, and took a giant leap in our journey back to the Moon and onward to Mars with the launch and recovery of the Artemis I test flight. These missions, among other successes, represent considerable progress made in each of the three priority areas outlined in the NASA Administrator's Memorandum of Intent for 2022, and these priorities have not changed.

This intent is a collaborative effort with input from leadership across NASA and represents our near-term priorities for the Agency. I expect all NASA leaders to work together to apply the resources (workforce effort, funding, and time) they steward towards missions, operations, and programs that advance these priorities. Building on last year's memo, this intent governs our efforts in calendar year 2023 and our investment planning for fiscal year 2025.

Moon-to Mars-Exploration

The Agency Moon-to-Mars strategy and objectives developed last year informed an architecture rooted in collaboration throughout the Agency and with international and industry partners. These objectives were developed and will be implemented through the categories of science, transportation and habitation, infrastructure, and operations.

This year, NASA will solidify and work to implement a technically and politically resilient architecture for sustained U.S. presence on the Moon, Mars, and throughout the solar system. We will continue to forge ahead on readiness for Artemis II, prepare to return Perseverance's samples from the surface of Mars, and ensure that our space communications and navigation assets are ready to support these missions.

Protecting our Planet

NASA's direct observations, made on and above Earth's surface, put humanity in the best position to measure and respond to changes in our environment while confronting challenges that impact all of humanity. Focusing our efforts on climate change, planetary defense, and the safety, security, and sustainability of space will equip policymakers with the best information possible to protect our planet.

This year NASA will improve climate data quality and quantity through Earth observation missions and the rollout of the Earth Information Center. Additionally, we will continue to develop and implement innovative efficient technology options with our commercial partners through successful X-plane demonstrations.

Building on the success of the DART mission, we will respond to potentially dangerous objects from space by expanding our toolsets in vigilant search and detection, consistent early warning, and timely response. Our planetary defense efforts will help leaders align Government agencies to maximize our likelihood of success should we need to use these defenses.

NASA will develop policy and technology options for leaders to address growing hazards in near space caused by increasing traffic and human-made space debris, to protect the lives and property of all nations and future generations.

Workforce

NASA will continue to learn and adapt to meet the needs of our most critical asset – our workforce. Our vision for the future is continuously being shaped by workforce feedback and will strive to prioritize mission, teamwork, and presence with a purpose. This will enable NASA to meet our goals with flexibility, hybrid work models, and responsible infrastructure.

Together, we will invest in the future of NASA leaders through mentorship, education, tools, and training to remain a global leader in science and technology.

Working Toward These Priorities

How we operate is as important as the priorities on which we are focused. Our core values of safety, integrity, teamwork, excellence, and inclusion are pillars in all that we do.

NASA will continue to prioritize inclusion to foster a workforce, present and future, that looks like America and reflects the diversity of talent of our NASA family. We will strengthen our teamwork among NASA Mission Directorates and Centers, with other U.S. Government agencies, and with international partners whose values align with and contribute to NASA's overall mission success.

We will also reinforce the integrity and excellence of our acquisition practices by adhering to the priorities outlined in the NASA Chief Acquisition Officer's Memorandum of Intent. Overarching priorities include advancing acquisition innovation and rigor as well as strengthening the acquisition workforce and culture to create opportunities for all.

Our mission at NASA remains clear: to explore the unknown in air and space, innovate for the benefit of humanity, and inspire the world through discovery. Our work is vital to maintaining American leadership in air and space, protecting our planet and near-Earth space environment, and encouraging the next generation – the Artemis Generation – of space explorers. We will faithfully execute these endeavors, enabled by our careful stewardship of the resources entrusted to NASA, to explore the secrets of the universe for the benefit of all.

