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NASA Procedural Requirements

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NPR 7500.1

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Subject: NASA Technology Commercialization Process w/ Change 1 (4/9/04)

Responsible Office: Office of the Chief Technologist

| [TOC](#) | [Change History](#) | [Preface](#) | [Chp1](#) | [Chp2](#) | [Chp3](#) | [Chp4](#) | [Chp5](#) |
[Chp6](#) | [Chp7](#) | [Chp8](#) | [AppdxA](#) | [AppdxB](#) | [AppdxC](#) | [AppdxD](#) | [Fig2-1](#) |
[FigB-1](#) | [FigB-2](#) | [FigC-1](#) | [ALL](#) |

CHAPTER 2. Commercial Technology Program Process

2.1 Process Overview

2.1.1 NASA's technology commercialization process continues to expand its business practices/mechanisms enabling the Agency to more closely align its way of doing business with that of the private sector. Commercial Technology partnerships are the common denominator in these practices.

2.1.2 All NASA activities with existing or planned technological assets that may have commercial application are subject to the technology commercialization process. Technological assets include technologies, innovations, facilities and expertise. The process' end objective for each activity is the same - that of maximizing each activity's commercial impact.

2.1.3 NASA's technology commercialization process is not a stand-alone process. Rather, it is integral to, and is accomplished within, the Agency's overall strategic management process, particularly through the Agency's program/project management process ([NPR 7120.5](#)), as well as NASA's technology planning process as defined in the NASA Technology Plan (<http://technologyplan.nasa.gov/>).

2.1.4 Figure 2-1 provides a more detailed illustration of the overall technology commercialization process and how it relates to NASA's strategic management process. The top portion of Figure 2-1 represents NASA's overall strategic management process. The shaded lower portion of Figure 2-1 shows the core components of the commercial technology process. While the initiation of these components is sequential, their implementation is predominantly parallel. The citation in the core component boxes (at the lower right corner), refers to the section in this NPR where more information is provided about that component.

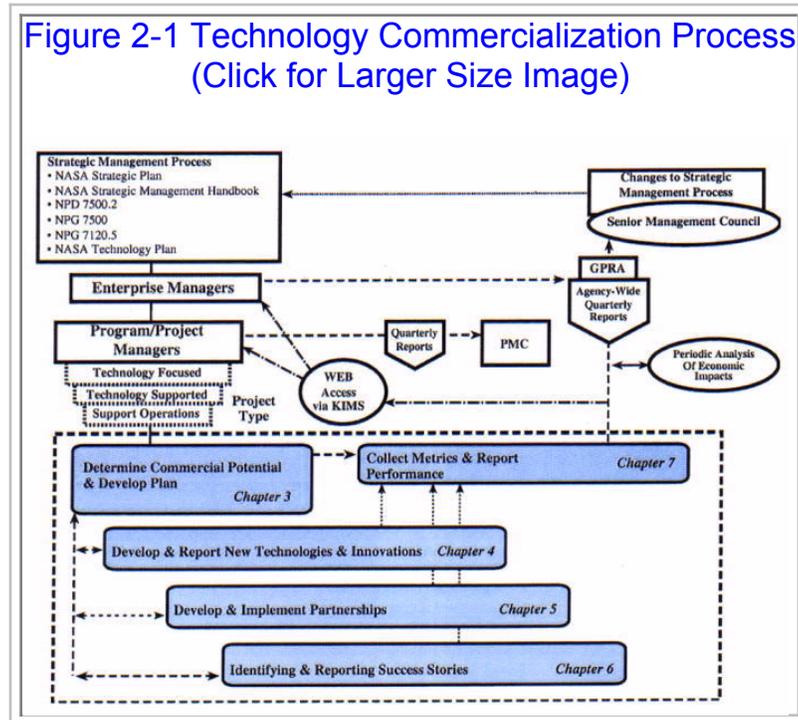
2.2 Program/Project Types

2.2.1 For purposes of NASA's Commercial Technology Process, there are three types of

activities:

- a. Technology Focused Programs/Projects
- b. Technology Supported Programs/Projects
- c. Operations/Support Programs/Projects

The program/project types differ by their emphasis on, and implementation of, the technology commercialization process in the early stages of their programs/projects.



[Return to Table of Contents](#)

2.2.2 Technology Focused Programs/Projects. Technology focused programs/projects are predominantly concerned with stretching the "state of the art" - i.e. technology advancement is their primary mission. These programs and projects are currently identified in NASA's Technology Plan (<http://technologyplan.nasa.gov/>). Technology commercialization and partnering for technology focused activities are discussed in Paragraph 3.4.

2.2.3 Technology Supported Programs/Projects. Technology supported programs and projects do not have technology development as their sole or primary mission but are usually focused on a scientific or exploration endeavor to which technology development may be necessary. Technology commercialization and partnering for technology supported activities are discussed in Paragraph 3.4.

2.2.4 Operations/Support Program/Projects. Operations support programs/projects do not generally have a technology focus. However, because of the often highly technical nature of operations/support activities, technological assets of value to the commercial marketplace often result. Technology commercialization and partnering for operations/support activities are discussed in Paragraph 3.5.

2.3 NASA TechTracS Information System (NTTS)

2.3.1 NPD 7500.2 establishes NASATechTracS (NTTS) as the Agencywide commercial technology information system. As such, NASATechTracS supports essentially all components in Figure 2-1. Specifically NASATechTracS supports the following technology commercialization functions:

- a. The identification and tracking of NASA activities with technology commercialization potential;
- b. The identification and tracking of planned and existing technological assets;
- c. The identification and tracking of NASA's commercial technology partnerships;
- d. Communication to the public of NASA and NASA-derived technologies and innovations;
- e. Success story repository, validation, and reporting;
- f. The reporting of Agencywide technology commercialization metrics; and
- g. Technology commercialization "electronic commerce" processes.

2.3.2 NTTS consists of the following components:

- a. Standard core NTTS database systems located at each Field Center under the management of that Center's Commercial Technology Office
- b. Each Center's NTTS updates the Agencywide NTTS database in near "real-time;
- c. eNTRE, the electronic new technology reporting system - desktop and Web-based tools which allows researchers, scientists and engineers to capture and report innovations and new technologies; and
- d. KIMS, the Knowledge Integration and Management System (<http://kims.larc.nasa.gov>). KIMS is a web based module that assists NASA activity managers in managing and maintaining the status of their commercial technology activities.

The KIMS Web site provides additional guidance on the NTTS components and how they support the technology commercialization process.

[| TOC |](#) [Change History |](#) [Preface |](#) [Chp1 |](#) [Chp2 |](#) [Chp3 |](#) [Chp4 |](#)
[Chp5 |](#) [Chp6 |](#) [Chp7 |](#) [Chp8 |](#) [AppdxA |](#) [AppdxB |](#) [AppdxC |](#) [AppdxD](#)
[| Fig2-1 |](#) [FigB-1 |](#) [FigB-2 |](#) [FigC-1 |](#) [ALL |](#)

[| NODIS Library |](#) [Program Formulation\(7000s\) |](#) [Search |](#)

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