

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 2024

In 2023, NASA expanded the frontiers of space exploration. We introduced the crew of Artemis II to the world and successfully returned the first samples from an asteroid to the United States (U.S.) on OSIRIS-Rex, while launching the Psyche mission to explore another asteroid. We entered the 23rd year of continuous human presence in low Earth orbit on the International Space Station (ISS) and began partnerships to examine propulsion technologies that could take humans even further into the cosmos. NASA also made strides to improve life here on Earth by collaborating on making air travel more efficient and launching missions to monitor and understand the health of our planet. We opened the doors to the Earth Information Center to enable the public to interact with NASA's critical work tackling the climate crisis. All while we continued to expand our understanding of the universe and inspire the next generation around the world.

These incredible accomplishments reflect the priorities that I outlined in the [Administrator's Memorandum of Intent for 2023](#), and these priorities, outlined again below, have not changed. In the year ahead, I expect all NASA leaders to work collaboratively to apply our Agency's resources (workforce, funding, and time) toward missions, operations, programs, and institutional capabilities that advance these priorities.

Moon-to-Mars Exploration

NASA recently released our [Moon to Mars Architecture](#) to set the stage for a new era of exploration. This architecture was developed with contributions from across NASA, industry, academic, and international partners. It provides a path for the Agency to advance scientific research, inspire the next generation of explorers, and shape our national posture as we embark on our next steps to the Moon and our first steps on Mars. This work is not easy; it will require the whole of our Agency to be engaged, especially as we find the right path forward for important long-term projects like the return of Perseverance's samples from Mars.

As we work toward the launch of Artemis II, we will continue to lay the foundation for sustained lunar exploration that will enable the first human mission to Mars. Our Moon to Mars efforts are seeded through the advancement of important science and technology

development work on the ISS. This work in microgravity across a broad variety of disciplines—including manufacturing, materials science, bioengineering, and other emerging fields—enhances U.S. economic competitiveness and mitigates future exploration risks. Continued research on the effects of microgravity on humans will inform our risk assessments for long durations missions to Mars. Our partnerships with industry support the expansion of a robust space economy, instrumental in maintaining our low Earth orbit presence following the retirement of ISS.

International partners play a key role in achieving a sustainable and robust presence on the Moon, and NASA will deepen our work with these partners to facilitate further collaboration throughout the Artemis campaign. We will also advance discussions on the implementation of Artemis Accords principles, including developing standards for coordination of international activities on and around the Moon.

Protecting our Planet

NASA will continue to be a global leader in the effort to observe, understand, and address threats to our planet, including climate change. By providing trusted Earth system research and actionable information, NASA increases the accessibility of climate and Earth science information and supports communities and stakeholders in responding to climate change.

In 2023, NASA released our [Agency Climate Strategy](#). In the year ahead, we will implement this strategy, improving Earth observation, advancing green technologies, and expanding accessibility and usability of our information to inform the public and decision-makers around the world. Also, in support of this strategy, NASA is advancing our instrument and spacecraft technology to develop and fly the next generation of great Earth observatories with our international partners to significantly improve our understanding of the Earth environment.

NASA will also continue to contribute to the sustainable use of space. Through development of the soon to be released NASA Space Sustainability Strategy, we will work closely with our interagency partners to ensure the U.S. remains a leader in promoting the safe use of Earth orbit and beyond for future generations. To ensure the safety, security, and long-term sustainability of activities from Earth orbit to the lunar surface, NASA will also work closely with our interagency partners to support the development and implementation of best practices and standards to maintain U.S. leadership.

Following on the success of the DART mission, NASA will continue to improve our understanding of near-Earth objects (NEO) and any potential threats they may pose to Earth. Guided by the recently released National Planetary Defense and NASA Planetary Defense Strategies, NASA leads the U.S. and global efforts to protect the planet from potentially hazardous objects. The return of OSIRIS-REx and Psyche will help us gain valuable scientific insights into the composition of our solar system's asteroids, and our continued work on NEO Surveyor will help us detect potentially hazardous objects.

Workforce

NASA's workforce is our most valuable asset. We will continue to invest in our people to ensure NASA remains the best place to work in the Federal Government. Our talented and diverse workforce, spread throughout more than a dozen Centers and facilities, represents the space community's most experienced and skilled personnel and is well-positioned to meet the opportunities and challenges to continue global leadership in space science, human exploration, aerospace innovation, and technology development. In order to ensure that NASA is engaging with our Nation's full spectrum of talent we continue implementation work on our [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Strategic Plan](#).

This year, we will finalize the NASA 2040 Strategy to ensure the Agency remains the preeminent institution for research, technology, and engineering that leads aeronautics and space exploration for humanity for decades to come. As a leadership team, we are committed to making the internal changes we need to enable greater innovation, adaptability, and agility in the changing world we foresee ahead.

We will also advance our mission to inspire and prepare the NASA workforce of tomorrow. NASA will continue to execute our robust communications strategy, ensuring our discoveries are reaching the widest possible audience, especially through innovative platforms like the new NASA.gov and NASA+ streaming service. We will also invest in STEM education and workforce development to ensure the U.S. is prepared to capitalize on the growing space economy.

Moving Forward

As we plan around these priorities, it is also important that we focus on how we deliver on them. Our core values of safety, integrity, teamwork, excellence, and inclusion will always be the pillars of what we do.

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 be good stewards, reinforcing the integrity and excellence of our acquisition practices by adhering to the priorities outlined in the [Chief Acquisition Officer's Memorandum of Intent](#). This includes continued diligence as we plan and manage our acquisitions, advancing acquisition innovation and rigor, as well as strengthening the acquisition workforce and culture to create opportunities for all.

At NASA, our mission is to explore the unknown in air and space, to innovate for the benefit of humanity, and to inspire the world through discovery. We are at the forefront of actions to maintain American leadership in exploration and science, protect our planet, and inspire the next generation of space explorers. Each of you play an essential role in setting NASA's course and ensuring we are responsible with the resources that the American people have entrusted us with to unlock the secrets of the universe for the benefit of all.

