

NASA INVENTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS BOARD

1. PURPOSE

The Inventions and Contributions Board (ICB) was chartered by Congress in Public Law 85-568, the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (Space Act), as amended, and is governed by provisions in that statute (now 51 U.S.C. Chapter 201, as well as by regulations at 14 C.F.R. 1209 Part 4 and 14 C.F.R. Part 1245 Subpart 1). The Space Act places the ICB in NASA to provide recommendations for waiving property rights in inventions and for monetary awards to any person making a significant scientific or technical contribution to the conduct of aeronautical and space activities. The ICB is located in the Office of the General Counsel.

2. APPLICABILITY/SCOPE

This charter applies to NASA Headquarters and NASA Centers, including Component Facilities. The scope of the ICB encompasses all scientific and research activities conducted by NASA to preserve the United States' preeminent position in aeronautics and space through research and technology development. These activities include robotic and human exploration and observation and the study of the universe and our solar system, including planet Earth, aeronautics, and development of all required capabilities and technologies.

3. AUTHORITY

The ICB is chartered and governed by sections 51 U.S.C. 20135 and 20136 of the Space Act.

4. GOVERNING COUNCIL AFFILIATION

The ICB is affiliated with the Office of General Counsel

5. FUNCTIONS

A. Waiver

Under the authority of 51 U.S.C. 20135 and pursuant to 14 C.F.R., Part 1245, Subpart 1, the ICB will receive and evaluate petitions for waiver of rights of the United States to inventions, accord each interested party an opportunity for a hearing, and transmit to the Administrator its findings of fact regarding petitions and its recommendations for actions to be taken with respect thereto.

B. Monetary Awards

Under the authority of 51 U.S.C. 20136 and pursuant to 14 C.F.R., part 1240, the ICB will receive and evaluate each application for award for any scientific or technical contribution to the Administration which is determined to have significant value in the conduct of aeronautical and space activities, will accord each an opportunity for a hearing upon such application, and will then transmit to the Administrator its recommendation as to the amount of the monetary award and the terms of the award, if any, to be made for such contribution. The Board's unique incentives for the development and reporting of new technologies helps disseminate information on these technologies to appropriate NASA offices for further utilization across NASA missions and programs.

6. MEMBERSHIP

Under the authority of 51 U.S.C. 20136 and pursuant to 14 C.F.R., Part 1209, Subpart 4, the ICB shall consist of a full-time chairperson and at least six members appointed from within NASA. The Agency Counsel for Intellectual Property, in the Office of the General Counsel, has been designated the Chairperson of the ICB and is directly responsible to the Administrator. Under the authority of 51 U.S.C. 20136 and pursuant to 14 C.F.R., Part 1209, Subpart 4, a staff is established to assist the ICB in discharging its functions and responsibilities. A full-time Director as a nonvoting member of the ICB will direct the activities of the staff and will report to the Chairperson of the ICB.

7. MEETINGS

The ICB meets as necessary to consider petitions for waiver and for evaluation of nominations for monetary awards.

8. DURATION

The ICB will remain in existence indefinitely.

9. MEASUREMENT

The ICB will provide an annual report of accomplishments to the Administrator.

10. RECORDS

The NASA Agency Counsel for Intellectual Property, the Chairperson of the ICB, is responsible for the maintenance of this charter and all records associated with the ICB.