National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

Reply to Attn of: **Office of the Chief Information Officer**

MAR 1 6 2006

TO: Distribution

FROM: Chief Information Officer
Chief of Strategic Communications

SUBJECT: Policy Governing NASA's Publicly Accessible Web Sites

As NASA moves forward to implement the Vision for Space Exploration, it is important to ensure that our citizens, and the world, can learn about NASA's activities in engaging, clear, consistent and cohesive ways. The NASA Web Portal offers the broadest, most comprehensive public view of NASA's work, communicating directly with the public, press, education community, scientists and researchers, and industry.

The www.nasa.gov domain and its supporting infrastructure are well established, having served more than a petabyte of data to more than 350 million visitors since January 2003. The portal's success has been recognized externally, most importantly by users satisfaction ratings that have consistently put the portal in the top five among federal sites. In three years, the portal has provided immediate updates and interactive features on such major events as Return to Flight and the Mars Exploration Rovers.

Internally, the portal has successfully completed a NASA Enterprise Architecture review and has been certified as delivering critical services for the Agency. In addition, the NASA portal enables the Agency to effectively and efficiently meet the new requirements set by OMB for management of Agency information assets on the web and various security requirements identified in the NIST 800.2 standards.

It is now time to move forward to leverage the portal as the single domain for NASA's public web presence, increase the breadth of content available and improve search capability. Therefore, we are jointly directing all NASA officials who are planning to publish new web sites, or fund public content generation, host these sites and create and maintain their content within the NASA portal infrastructure. Guidance regarding existing legacy public web sites will be provided at a later date, after completion of an analysis currently in process. Project staff for any of these new web sites or content creation can contact Dr. Nitin Naik, Associate Chief Technology Officer for the Office of the CIO (202-358-1519 or nitin.naik@nasa.gov) and/or Brian Dunbar, Internet Services Manager for the Office of Public Affairs (202-358-0873 or brian.dunbar@nasa.gov) to develop the plans to accomplish this objective. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact them for further details.

Thank you for your support and help in communicating this policy to your staffs.

Patricia L. Dunnington
Chief Information Officer

Joseph H. Davis
Chief of Strategic Communications

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