

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, CA 94035-1000



April 19, 2006

Reply to Attn of: D:200-2

Dear Colleague:

It is my pleasure to invite you to the *Commercial Space Forum: Space Exploration and Entrepreneurial On-ramps* being held May 16-18, 2006, at NASA Ames Research Center. You are among a select group being invited to this event, whose purpose is to energize and accelerate space development among industry, academic, and government stakeholders.

NASA's new strategic plan (available at <http://www.nasa.gov/about/budget/>) includes an exciting new high-level goal to stimulate "partnerships with the emerging commercial space sector." Realizing that a vibrant space economy includes not only new, low-cost, and frequent access to space, but also non-government customers through venture capital and other means, NASA Ames Research Center and the Alliance for Commercial Enterprises in Space (ACES) have hosted a series of workshops aimed at stimulating this new economy, offering new opportunities for industry and developing a new, supportive role for NASA (further information at <http://www.alliancespace.net/>). This Commercial Space Forum, sponsored by the NASA Research Partnership Centers (RPCs), will be an important step in developing partnerships to move this new economy forward.

NASA has invested significant resources toward space commercialization in the past, in part through eleven RPCs. Leveraging these past investments will help "jump start" the space economy in a number of key areas, including space power, imaging, communications, biotech, life support, robotics, space infrastructure, and others. The first day of this forum will be spent in presentations and discussions with the RPCs and their partnership companies involved in these development efforts, aimed at stimulating new business opportunities through connecting supply with demand.

During the subsequent interactive part of the forum, participants will identify what other factors need to be in place to reach the "tipping point" for new entrants into the commercial space arena, how the emerging entrepreneurial space industry can achieve success, and what role the government can play in ensuring American leadership in this rapidly developing new commercial arena.

You can explore the potential and shape the future of the emerging space economy by joining us at the forum. The forum will bring together major players to catalyze business opportunities through:

- Hearing the real story behind pioneering commercial endeavors in space and the potential for important future opportunities,
- Interacting with potential customers, suppliers, and investors key to creating the new space economy,
- Developing new space commercialization business relationships,
- Providing input to NASA and other decision-makers on what can be done to develop the full potential of space for economic development.

To learn more about and register for this important event, please go to: www.alliancespace.net.

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We hope you can join us in this exciting endeavor.

Sincerely,

Marvin Christensen
Center Director (Acting)