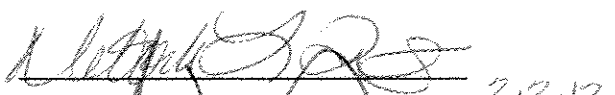



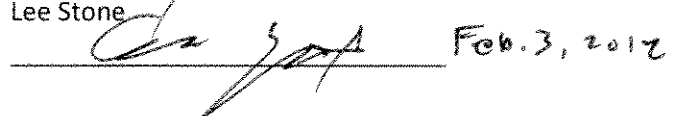
Memorandum of Understanding  
NASA Ames Research Center and Ames Federal Employees Union  
NASA Research Announcement (NRA) for 2012 NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC)

This MOU addresses the Center's implementation of the January 9, 2012 NASA Research Announcement (NRA) for 2012 NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) as it affects Bargaining Unit employees.

1. Management agrees that employees shall be given appropriate official time to develop proposals consistent with applicable provisions of the Negotiated Agreement and the time frames for the various phases of the NRA as previously announced (see attached "NIAC proposal procedure" email). Any changes in those time frames (e.g. extended due dates for submissions) will be promptly communicated to affected employees.
2. Management agrees that a non-voting union representative shall be invited to participate in the Center Review panel process, subject to section 5 below.
3. Timely proposals shall be evaluated, and guidance provided to proposers, based on technical merit, programmatic value, and compliance with the instructions set forth in the NRA and related communications to employees. Proposals that meet these criteria will be prioritized by the Centerwide panel for the Center Director; proposals that do not meet these criteria will not be sent forward. There are no quotas for submission or de-selection by branch, division, or directorate within the Center.
4. There will be no direct management re-writing/modification of proposals prior to submission without directly consulting the proposers. Proposers and the technical team may be asked to edit, re-write or bundle their proposals.
5. Center review panel members shall not have a direct conflict of interest (i.e., none can be a technical participant or funding recipient on any proposal.)
6. AFEU agrees that this MOU fully satisfies ARC's obligation to bargain in this matter and that it shall not request any further negotiations which may otherwise be within its rights unless the NRA or related HQ direction is altered in a significant way affecting the terms of this MOU. In that event AFEU and ARC will reopen negotiations (if requested within 3 days of IFPTE receiving notice of such modifications) for the sole purpose of completing I&I negotiations on any local changes needed made to bring ARC's implementation into compliance with the NRA or related HQ guidance. The parties agree to negotiate as expeditiously as practical.
7. The Union shall not represent any employees in grievances or ULP's on this matter.

  
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Deb Feng 2.2.12

  
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Lee Stone 1/27/12

  
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Feb. 3, 2012

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Attachment to MOU: 1/\_\_\_/12 email, Subject: NIAC proposal procedure

Please pass this information along to your organizations.

OCT has released this year's NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) NRA on 9 Jan. 2012. Two-page Phase I, Step A white papers are due 9 Feb. 2012. Submission of Ames proposals will be through NSPIRES. A list of last year's proposals is attached for your information.

Steve Zornetzer has asked me to coordinate responses to this call so that our success rate can be better than last year. We will be forming a small group of senior Ames people to review these proposals and provide feedback. We request that all proposals be sent to the NOC by COB Thursday, 2 Feb. 2012. Please send the proposals to [Diane.Alexander-1@nasa.gov](mailto:Diane.Alexander-1@nasa.gov).

We ask Division chiefs to ensure that all proposals adequately address the evaluation criteria listed on pg 1 and 2 of the NRA. The NRA is attached for your convenience. The evaluation criteria are:

The concept must be:

- An aerospace architecture, mission, or system.
- Exciting — offering a potential breakthrough, or great leap in capabilities relevant to NASA goals or aerospace endeavors.
- Unexplored — with basic feasibility and properties not previously understood nor readily determined. The concept may be based on new technology, or a novel approach with existing technology, as long as it is different enough to require basic investigation. Some technology required for a NIAC concept may not yet exist, provided the bounding assumptions about it are reasonable.
- Far-term — very early in development, requiring at least 10 years of further analysis, design, testing, and refinement for practical implementation. (Farther out is acceptable; some concepts likely require more than 30 years but may still be very worthy of initial study.)
- Technically credible — have a sound scientific and engineering basis, and a reasonable implementation path.

The proposed Phase I study must:

- Develop the concept — the constituent technology/systems and operations should be identified, defined, or refined. Key properties should be investigated. Potential applications and paths for further advancement (overall and key elements) should be considered.
- Assess the concept in a mission context — determining feasibility and comparing properties/performance with those of current missions/concepts should be the main focus. (This is more important than detailed analysis of the underlying phenomena or technology.) Concepts that may support multiple missions should discuss the range, but must feature detailed analysis for at least one candidate mission.

In addition the white papers must be prepared according to the instructions provided in section V (c) (iv) of the

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NRA, beginning on page 10 of the NRA.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best Regards,

Tony Strawa

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