

## Approval to submit the NASA FFRDC Study

**Summary:** The Core Executive Council (Core EC) met on August 24, 2018 to review the NASA FFRDC study and confirm that it is consistent with Administration direction and its Terms of Reference, and ready for submission.

- NASA was tasked to conduct a study on making the Agency more agile and flexible in meeting the Administration's exploration goals including SPD-1. The study direction included evaluation of using FFRDCs, as well as other options.
- Its approved Terms of Reference (ToR) documented expectations of the study, which constituted the primary success criteria for this decision, and specified that the final study be brought to the Executive Council (EC).
- The study was given an aggressive schedule, with an end of August submission deadline. Due to the schedule, a formal stakeholder comments process was waived for this decision. In lieu, the study team gathered initial feedback at a senior leadership offsite, and was directed to also consult with the Office of General Counsel and Office of Procurement prior to the EC decision. The team also consulted with Mission Directorate AAs, Center Directors and the Chief Information Officer.

In arriving at a decision, the EC considered whether the study had successfully met its Terms of Reference and discussed its findings in detail. The EC further considered the benefits of options to NASA in promoting healthy competition among suppliers, and in more broadly disseminating the NASA brand.

### Decision:

The EC approves submission of the NASA FFRDC study's findings to OMB (incorporating feedback provided at the meeting). At this time, the draft study's posture towards recommendations should be softened to presenting options, and it should be clearly communicated that options would require new resources and are not included in the PPBE20 budget submit.

### The Chair provided the following observations:

- We have completed the study and assessment as directed.
- We've determined that we need additional flexibility.
- There are other ways to do it than conversion of Centers to FFRDCs.
- We have identified options of interest which we will continue to evaluate further.

(b) (6)

### Decider:

Administrator

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Signatures represent 1) concurrence that this decision was reached in compliance with Executive Council procedures, and 2) ownership of amplifying comments relative to the decision.

**Signature**

**Amplifying Comments**

Deputy Administrator (vacant)

(b) (6)

Associate Administrator

(b) (6)

Deputy Associate Administrator

(b) (6)

Chief Financial Officer

(b) (6)

Chief Scientist

(b) (6)

Chief Technologist

## Approval to submit the NASA FFRDC Study

**Accountable:**

Jeff DeWit, Chief Financial Officer

**Accountable for:**

Submission and briefing of report to OMB; recommendation of appropriate budget steps

Execution milestone	Milestone Date	Responsible:
Submit report to OMB	NLT August 31, 2018	Doug Comstock, OCFO Study Team Lead
Brief SMC on findings and recommendations	September 6, 2018	Doug Comstock, OCFO Study Team Lead
Brief OMB	September 7, 2018	Doug Comstock, OCFO Study Team Lead
Develop forward action plan to mature options of interest	Prior to budget passback	Steve Jurczyk, AA, with Jeff DeWit, Chief Financial Officer
Reconcile, if needed, with PPBE20 budget submission or PPBE21 budget guidance	NLT January 2019	Jeff DeWit, Chief Financial Officer