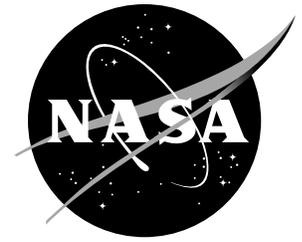


# NASA Facts

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

**NASA Headquarters**  
Public Affairs Office  
Code P  
300 E Street SW  
Washington DC 20546



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## Procurement Initiatives

### Streamlining the Purchasing Process

NASA has introduced major procurement reforms to improve its ability to control costs, expedite reporting procedures, develop measurable management goals and provide consistent standards for contractor incentives. Several of those initiatives are listed below.

### New Procurement Initiatives:

- NASA is committed to finding a streamlined Source Selection Process for Competitive procurements over \$5,000 a year. Recent participants in NASA's source selection process were asked to assess that process, and the NASA Center procurement officers are using their input to improve the source selection process.
  - The Cost Control Initiative is implementing specific new methods to track and control costs, both through contractors and within the Agency.
  - The Procurement Reinvention Laboratory is part of the National Performance Review's strategy to undertake innovative approaches to obtaining goods and services for NASA Headquarters.
  - Performance Based Contracting consists of structuring all aspects of an acquisition around the purpose of work to be performed rather than the manner in which the work is to be performed. Vague, overly broad "mission" statements will be eliminated and in preparing statements of work, NASA shall describe the work in terms of "what" the end product is to be rather than "how" the work is to be accomplished.
  - The Ombudsman program is a means to make the acquisition process, from identification of the requirement through completion of a contract, more accessible to outside parties. This program will facilitate communications between NASA and offerers, potential offerers and contractors, so that the concerns of interested outside parties are resolved before they become major problems.
- The Cooperative Agreements Initiative provides a way for NASA to work in close cooperation with for-profit organizations to advance and commercialize technologies in which the government has unique capabilities.
  - The Electronic Commerce for Acquisition Initiative will move procurement transactions from traditional paper-based systems to electronic processing, where possible, to improve the effectiveness of business relationships.
  - Through the Communication Outreach Initiative, NASA is pursuing various means to improve communication with contractors and with interested members of the public. The Office of Procurement's home page on the World Wide Web is located at:  
<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/procurement/>

### Procurement Initiatives: Accomplishments

- Award Fee — In the past, 76 percent of NASA's contract dollars were obligated under Cost Plus Award Fee contracts. The Office of Procurement developed and implemented a new NASA award fee policy with emphasis on selection of contract type, increased importance of cost control evaluations, fee based on a final comprehensive rating, and uniform scoring procedures.
- Unpriced Change Orders — Changes to the current system of change order processing at NASA will allow the Agency to manage contract changes more effectively and control cost growth through solid technical definition, realistic cost estimates and improved time lines.
- COTR Training — Contracting Officers can appoint Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives (COTRs) to represent them in entering into, administering or terminating a contract. Through COTR training, the knowledge of the COTRs will be increased, leading to better definition of the technical requirements of contracts and better contract administration.