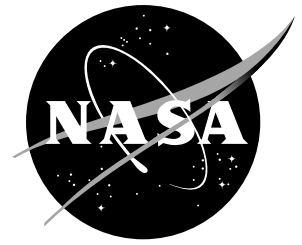


NASA Facts

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

NASA Headquarters

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



FS-1995-08-013-HQ

Small and Disadvantaged Business

Strengthening Opportunities for America's Small, Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Firms

NASA develops programs to assist small business firms that are owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. The primary objective of the small business program is to increase the participation of small and disadvantaged businesses in NASA procurement. NASA can help to strengthen America's economic growth through the use of entrepreneurial endeavors found in small and disadvantaged businesses, which can often provide value-added services not readily available at large corporations. NASA works with minority universities, and small and disadvantaged businesses throughout the country.

Recent Accomplishments:

- NASA awards more contract dollars to minority-owned firms than any other federal agency except the Department of Defense (which has a procurement budget 10 times the size of NASA's).
- Almost 26% of NASA's business is with small businesses.
- NASA achieved 9.9% in small and disadvantaged business contracting in fiscal year 1994. This is the highest percentage ever achieved by NASA, exceeding the Congressionally mandated goal of 8%.
- NASA awarded \$1.2 billion in small and disadvantaged business contracting in fiscal year 1994. This is the highest dollar amount ever awarded to small and disadvantaged businesses by NASA.
- NASA awarded over \$900 million to minority-owned firms and nearly \$300 million to women-owned businesses, fiscal year 1994. In FY1994, NASA's total contract dollars to women-owned businesses was double that of FY1991.
- In fiscal year 1994, over \$300 million was awarded to "8(a)" firms, or businesses qualified for federal government contracts under the Small Business Act. The amount represents a \$50 million increase over 1993.
- Over \$600 million was awarded in subcontracts to small and disadvantaged businesses in fiscal year 1994—more than double the 1990 amount.
- NASA works with its prime contractors in setting up workshops for small and small disadvantaged businesses.
- NASA developed a mentor-protégé program to increase the technical capability of small and small disadvantaged businesses.
- NASA formed a roundtable of its prime contractors to develop methods to increase subcontracting to small and small disadvantaged businesses.
- NASA is working to increase small business involvement in technology transfer to the commercial marketplace.
- NASA has a Minority Business Resource Advisory Committee to assist the agency in fully integrating small disadvantaged businesses into NASA high-tech business contracts.
- The NASA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) was cited by the General Accounting Office as a model to be followed by other OSDBU's because of the NASA's initiatives designed to help meet socioeconomic goals.