

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Office of the Administrator
Washington, DC 20546-0001



October 27, 2010

Vice Admiral Joseph W. Dyer, USN (Ret.)
Chairman
Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, DC 20546

Dear Admiral ~~Dyer~~ ^{Joe}:

Enclosed is NASA's response to Recommendation 2010-01-06 from the 2010 First Quarterly Meeting of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP). Please do not hesitate to contact me if the ASAP would like further background on the information provided in the enclosure.

I look forward to receiving continued advice from the ASAP that results from your important fact-finding and quarterly meetings.

Sincerely,

Always Fi!
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Bolden, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.
Administrator

Enclosure

Tracking Number 2010-01-06
Knowledge Capture and Management

Finding

The FY 2011 President's Budget Request cancels the Constellation Program. There is a wealth of knowledge and lessons learned during the program design, development, and test activities.

Recommendation

With the dismantlement of the Constellation program, the panel recommends that NASA begin now to fund and to document the tacit knowledge and to organize the already documented explicit knowledge that has been learned and developed to date. This knowledge can be organized into packages for ease of use.

Rationale

Much of the knowledge and lessons learned can be applied to future space flight vehicle developments, whether they are commercial or not.

NASA Response

NASA concurs. Records created, information systems technologies developed, and program/project knowledge gained from the five years of CxP development will be actively captured, shared, and reused by NASA, academia, and our commercial partners.

Near-term CxP preparatory activities include: continuing the use of existing information systems, ramping up records and knowledge capture activities (e.g. records identification, systems preparation, knowledge-based risks, etc.), increasing records and knowledge capture planning, and continuing facilitator training for future knowledge capture activities.

In addition, records and knowledge capture activities will occur at the deeper project levels, as well as within the line directorates and supporting Center organizations. All efforts are targeting the capture of not only technical lessons and traditional program information contained in formal databases but includes the capture of broader lesson perspectives including program/project management, systems engineering, systems technology, critical processes, and functional support activities (Safety & Mission Assurance, Technical Authority, Information Systems, Human Capital, Legal, etc.). To achieve this broader goal, the active capture of CxP experiences will be driven by the program and Center personnel in the form of lessons learned sessions, video interviews, narrative reports, case study development, briefings, and mentoring sessions. The Exploration Systems Mission Directorate believes the valuable lessons learned within the CxP must be captured quickly and in a format which provides for enabling records storage that will be needed for long-term retrievability and also in a format that will be easy to access, search, and that will ensure the widest utilization to an audience internal and external to the Agency.