



**National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

**George C. Marshall Space Flight Center**  
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812

September 17, 2014

Reply to Attn of:

DA01

The Honorable Kevin J. Wolf  
Assistant Secretary for Export Administration  
Bureau of Industry and Security, Room 3886  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Brad Botwin  
Director, Industrial Base Studies  
Department of Commerce  
Bureau of Industry and Security  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Room 3887  
Washington DC 20230

Dear Messrs. Wolf and Botwin:

I am writing to request the participation of the Bureau of Industry and Security's (BIS) Office of Technology Evaluation (OTE) in a major survey and assessment of the U.S. Rocket Propulsion Industrial Base. The principal goal of this joint effort would be to gain a better understanding of the supply chain network that supports the development, production, and sustainment of rocket propulsion systems.

The Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC), part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, is responsible for Propulsion and Space Transportation; Engineering, Science, Space Systems and Space Operations; and Project and Program Management. This includes management of the National Institute for Rocket Propulsion Systems (NIRPS) which is chartered to foster a vibrant rocket propulsion community that provides reliable and affordable propulsion systems in support of the nation's defense, civil, and commercial needs.

We have been working with OTE's Chris Nelson to review the propulsion-related results from their U.S. Space Industry Deep Dive Assessment. By combining MSFC's expertise and technical capabilities with OTE's survey and assessment experience, we will be able to create a much needed baseline on the companies, universities, and government organizations that support the development, production, and sustainment of the propulsion sector.

For purposes of conducting the survey and related analysis, MSFC is prepared to enter into an Interagency Agreement with the Bureau of Industry and Security Office as well as provide necessary funding and technical support. We also plan to include the participation of the Joint Army Navy NASA Air Force Interagency Propulsion Committee in the project. I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to the opportunity to work with OTE on this important effort.

Should you have any questions or need to follow up on this action, please contact Brad Perkins at (256) 544-1357 or [brad.t.perkins@nasa.gov](mailto:brad.t.perkins@nasa.gov).

Sincerely,



L. Dale Thomas, Ph.D.  
Associate Director, Technical  
Director, NIRPS

cc:

HQ/B. Neumann

FP01/J. Singer

FP01/R. Doreswamy

Dept. of Commerce/C. Nelson