

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

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



June 24, 2004

Reply to Attn of: DA01

FROM: DA01/David A. King
TO: Distribution
SUBJECT: Mandatory Certification of Program/Project Managers

You have heard for some time now the discussions about my goal to have all Program/Project managers certified as defined by the Agency Program and Project Leadership (APPL) process in conjunction with a MSFC certification team. We have reached a point in this activity wherein it is time for action. Briefings have been held to better explain the Agency program/project management development and certification process as implemented by Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC).

The purpose of this letter is to set a timetable wherein all currently assigned or future Program/Project Managers obtain certification at the levels they are currently working. Knowing that we are all busy and have a full plate of activity to accomplish, I am setting a liberal time limit of 3 years from initiation for the MSFC program/project management workforce to obtain certification. This workforce is defined by the Program Management Council list of programs, projects and activities. The Co-Chairs of the Project Management Board should notify my office by June 30, 2007, that all candidates are certified. After that date, any candidates for program/project management positions must be certified at the level of the project for which they are being considered, or as in the case for outside applicants, must be capable of obtaining certification soon after being selected for a program/project management position.

If for some reason you feel that this goal will be difficult for you to attain, I am willing to discuss this issue with you and make appropriate arrangements that will be fair and just to all involved. I am confident that our current program/project management workforce will lead by example and encourage the development of future project managers who will someday take their place. Certification is a bold step that I feel is necessary for MSFC to remain competitive in today's marketplace. I look forward to you joining with me in embracing this process and to be proactive in helping make any process improvements that you identify as we proceed.

Additional information is available on the EODD Web site,
<http://mi.msfc.nasa.gov/pmdp/index.shtml>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.A.K.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David A. King
Director

Distribution:
SDL 1

Mission Success Starts with Safety