

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

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



Reply to Attn of: DA01

TO: Distribution

FROM: Director/Marshall Space Flight Center

SUBJECT: Mandatory Certification of Systems Engineers

The Project Management Board Certification Team was tasked to develop a certification process for our systems engineers similar to the Project Manager Development and Certification Program that was implemented in June 2004. The Systems Engineering Development Program will be implemented October 1, 2004.

Within 3 years after initiation of the program, all currently assigned or future systems engineers must obtain certification at the level commensurate with the project they are working. The workforce and the level of certification to be attained are 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 October 1, 2007, that all candidates are certified. After that date, any candidates for systems engineer positions must be certified at the level of the project for which they are being considered, and outside applicants must be capable of obtaining certification soon after being selected for a systems engineer position.

If you believe this goal will be difficult for you to attain, we can discuss the issue and make appropriate arrangements that will be fair and just to all involved. I am confident that our current systems engineering workforce will lead by example and encourage the development of future systems engineers who will someday take their place.

Certification is a bold step that I feel is necessary for Marshall Space Flight Center to remain competitive in today's marketplace. I look forward to working with you on this process and welcome any comments you may have regarding process improvements.

Additional information is available on the Employee and Organization Development Department web site at: <http://mi.msfc.nasa.gov/sedp/index.shtml>.


David A. King

Mission Success Starts with Safety