EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

OFFICE OF FEDERAL
PROCUREMENT POLICY

December 18, 2006

The Honorable Michael D. Griffin
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, DC 20546-0001

Dear Mr. Griffin:

This letter is in response to your request to serve as an executive agent for the government-wide acquisition of information technology (IT) products and ancillary services under the planned Scientific Engineering Workstation Procurement (SEWP) IV contracts. Your request, which is described in letters to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) dated May 31, 2006 and October 18, 2006, is made pursuant to section 5112(e) of the Information Technology Management Reform Act ("Clinger-Cohen Act"), 40 U.S.C. 11302(e). Section 5112(e) authorizes the Director of OMB to designate one or more heads of executive agencies as executive agents for government-wide acquisition contracts for IT (GWACs).

The OMB Director has authorized the Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) to determine whether the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) should be designated as an executive agent for the SEWP IV contracts and to make a designation, if appropriate. I have determined that NASA should serve as the executive agent and designate the Administrator of NASA as the executive agent of the SEWP IV GWAC.

This designation is based, in part, on information provided in your submissions to demonstrate that: (1) there is a need in the federal marketplace for the SEWP IV GWAC and (2) NASA is well suited to serve as its executive agent. According to your data, agencies that manage large interagency and agency-wide contracts for IT, including the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Department of Defense (DOD), have routinely looked to SEWP III for high-end technology solutions that were not readily available on other federal interagency contracts at the time the need arose. As the long-standing manager of the SEWP program with significant programmatic expertise, NASA has provided agencies with timely access to cutting-edge, mission-critical technology at competitive prices and reasonable fees.

This designation is granted with the understanding that NASA will continue to operate SEWP as a niche GWAC that leverages the value NASA provides as its executive agent. SEWP shall be made available to agencies on a non-mandatory basis. OMB expects that NASA will continue to encourage customers with needs that do not appear to require high-end solutions or be in furtherance of scientific or engineering pursuits to consider other interagency vehicles that

could be better suited to meet those requirements, such as GSA's Multiple Award Schedules. OMB also expects that NASA will continue to operate SEWP as a self-sustaining, service-for-fee program.

The designation is subject to the same terms and annual reporting requirements applicable to the SEWP III GWAC. OMB will review NASA's annual activity reports, due to OMB by December 15 of each year, to ensure SEWP IV is producing effective results and work with NASA if improvements are needed. The designation shall remain in effect until the end of the contract period for the SEWP IV contracts, including any options, or January 31, 2012, whichever is earlier, unless the designation is otherwise modified by OMB.

The effective management and strategic use of GWACs and other interagency contracts is a priority for OFPP. OFPP is developing guidance to clarify the roles and responsibilities of contract managers and their customers. OFPP is also reviewing how the governance structure for creating and renewing interagency contracts can be improved and will carefully consider the forthcoming recommendations on this issue made by the Acquisition Advisory Panel established under section 1423 of the Services Acquisition Reform Act. OFPP will look to NASA and the other executive agents to serve as role models as improvements are developed and implemented. We appreciate the steps you have taken to make available on-line tools and training to help customers properly use your contracts and achieve the best results possible from the SEWP Program.

OMB looks forward to working with you and the other executive agents to ensure that GWACs are providing cost-effective, quality results for our taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Denett

Paul A. Denett
Administrator