

CCSDS Secretariat Office

AIAA (C/O Nick Tongson)

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##### ***Advancing Technology With International Agreements To Use That Technology***

##### Dear <Agency Management>,

Your agency has an important role in the Consultative Committee for Space Data Systems (CCSDS). This message is to advise you of that, to thank your agency’s management for that support, and to ask you to consider whether your agency is placing adequate priority and resources in this work, considering the benefit to your agency, and the upcoming needs of your agency’s missions.

CCSDS develops standards that establish data and communications interoperability between the many spaceflight missions of the spacefaring nations of the world. Ultimately, for your agency’s missions, this provides the opportunity for a greater degree of international collaboration, lowering the burden of cost for any one agency to conduct space operations and science research.

CCSDS is a rare working-level committee that advances new technologies and ***simultaneously*** establishes international agreements to use them. The new major international missions make this work even more critical for all agencies. Unfortunately, the fact is that multi-agency resources being provided to this important work have been reduced over the last several years.

The CCSDS teams have proposed interoperable standards projects in many technology areas that will be useful, or even critical, to new mission concepts. But they are on hold or closed out because of lack of resources. We recommend that you confer with your agency’s CCSDS teams to find out where your agency can apply additional resources, if it is possible, to bring long-term benefit and international cooperation to your agency’s future missions.

Data and communications technology is advancing rapidly. CCSDS can tame the risk of new technology by putting more eyes on the problem and vetting it with the international community. With this as a backdrop, we have developed the enclosed brochure that spells out why and how CCSDS does this important work.

In particular, make note of the centerfold, which lays out the total scope of CCSDS work in an end-to-end mission architecture.

If further information on CCSDS would be helpful, please feel free to contact me or your agency’s CCSDS Management Council representative, or browse our website at [www.CCSDS.org](http://www.CCSDS.org).

Sincerely,



Michael W. Kearney, III

CCSDS Chairman and General Secretary

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