

August 21, 2007

The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

REF: Executive Order 13392 – Improving Agency Disclosure of Information

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

In accordance with Executive Order 13392, “Improving Agency Disclosure of Information,” NASA completed its review of its Agency’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process and developed an FOIA Improvement Plan (see Appendix A). However, we’ve determined that an additional modification is necessary concerning our procurement of commercial developed FOIA database software. Therefore, we’ve updated our current plan with the attached modification.

NASA will continue to support the President’s FOIA initiatives and work to improve public accessibility to Agency records.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

David Mould
Chief Freedom of Information Act Officer

cc:
The Honorable Rob Portman
Director, Office of Management and Budget

Executive Order 13392 – Improving Agency Disclosure of Information

In accordance with Executive Order 13392, “Improving Agency Disclosure of Information,” the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) have updated its original FOIA Improvement Plan, dated June 13, 2006.

Appendix A: (Modification 2)

Change to read –

- 1) Name: **FOIA Database**
- 2) Brief statement of goal sought: Replace current FileMaker Pro database with an established commercial-based system which will allow the public to access and track the current status of its FOIA request.
- 3) List of all distinct steps planned to be taken: Interview vendors and evaluate their FOIA database systems for procurement.
- 4) Time milestones: Initial milestone - No later than December 31, 2007, for the review and decision of which commercial package to procure; have the new system up and operational no later than September 30, 2008, for implementation for FY09.
- 5) Means of measurement of success: Procuring the commercial program and having it available for testing and use during FY08.

Justification –

This agency’s FOIA office established an adhoc group to evaluate commercial FOIA database products. During the past fiscal year this group completed this review process, and recommended to continue with the procurement process. This recommendation would replace our agency current FOIA database with one that would allow web access to the public. However, during the evaluation process it was noted the need to conduct a testing phase of this commercial purchased software to ensure operability within our 13 decentralizes FOIA Requester Service Centers and our supporting Information Technology office. Also our goal date of September 30, 2007 was found to be unrealistic under our current budgetary restrains and has been pushed to be funded during our FY08 budget cycle.