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Report on Compliance with Laws and Regulations

To the Administrator and the Acting Inspector General
of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2009, and have issued our report thereon dated November 9, 2009. The report states that because of the matters discussed therein, the scope of our work was not sufficient to enable us to express, and we do not express, an opinion on the consolidated balance sheet as of September 30, 2009, and the related consolidated statements of net cost and changes in net position, and the combined statement of budgetary resources for the fiscal year then ended.

The management of NASA is responsible for complying with laws and regulations applicable to NASA. We performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts, and certain other laws and regulations specified in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin No. 07-04, *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements*, as amended, including the requirements referred to in the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (FFMIA). We limited our tests of compliance to these provisions, and we did not test compliance with all laws and regulations applicable to NASA.

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance with the laws and regulations discussed in the preceding paragraph exclusive of FFMIA that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* or OMB Bulletin No. 07-04, as amended.

Under FFMIA, we are required to report whether NASA's financial management systems substantially comply with federal financial management systems requirements, applicable federal accounting standards and the United States Standard General Ledger (SGL) at the transaction level. To meet this requirement, we performed tests of compliance with FFMIA Section 803(a) requirements. However, as noted above, we were unable to complete our audit. Based upon the results of the tests we were able to complete, we noted certain instances, described below, in which NASA's financial management systems did not substantially comply with certain federal system and federal accounting standard requirements:

- The real property system is not integrated with the Core Financial Module.

- Issues related to access and change management were noted as a result of information technology (IT) audit procedures. The level of risk associated with these IT issues depends in part upon the extent to which financial-related compensating controls (such as reconciliations and data integrity reviews of output) are in place and operating effectively throughout the audit period. Certain of these controls designed to detect errors or inappropriate processing may also not be executed in a manner which can be expected to identify errors, which, while perhaps not material to the financial statements as a whole, may subject NASA to risks regarding safeguarding of assets. Although NASA has made progress in addressing and resolving prior-year IT findings, these IT-related issues, along with issues noted by Ernst & Young, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and NASA Office of Inspector General (OIG) in their reviews through the year, merit continued management focus.
- NASA was unable to meet certain requirements to ensure compliance with federal accounting standards, as discussed in various sections of the Report on Internal Control.

Our Report on Internal Control includes information related to the financial management systems that were found not to comply with the requirements, relevant facts pertaining to the noncompliance and our recommendations related to the specific issues presented. It is our understanding that NASA's management generally agrees with the facts as presented and that relevant comments from NASA's management responsible for addressing the noncompliance are provided as an attachment to this report. We did not audit management's comments and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Because we could not complete our audit, we were unable to determine whether there were other instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations that are required to be reported.

Providing an opinion on compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and the OIG of NASA, OMB, GAO, and Congress, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Ernst + Young LLP

November 9, 2009