



Space Exploration Alliance 2006 Budget Week Action Plan

Who We Are

The Space Exploration Alliance is an unprecedented partnership of the nation's premier non-profit space organizations with a combined membership of more than 1.2 million people throughout the United States.

SEA Vision

We support the Vision for Space Exploration as a bold and substantial mandate for human and robotic exploration of the solar system that will help assure American technological and scientific preeminence in the 21st century.

Fully Support the Vision's Plan and Financial Requirements

Space exploration is and should be a national priority for the United States. The exploration of space drives innovation; increases student interest in science and mathematics; creates jobs; improves national security, and fosters a feeling of wonder among children and adults alike. In addition, it will dramatically increase our knowledge of the universe and begin the process of opening new worlds for humanity.

RECOMMENDATION: Congress should provide the funding for what it has charged NASA to implement in the 2005 NASA Authorization Act.

- **This level of funding should be greater than the President's FY 2007 budget request, and should be closer to the \$17.9 billion of the authorization versus the \$16.8 billion in the President's budget.**
- **Congress should strongly consider using a guide of one percent of the federal budget for future NASA appropriations. The current level has shrunk to 0.7%. This floor was exceeded throughout the post-Apollo era until the mid-nineties.**

RECOMMENDATION: Congress should use additional funds to enable NASA to connect current work with the future human exploration of Mars, such as through the methane engine development program.

RECOMMENDATION: Congress should also use additional funds to develop the Centennial Challenges program, the Terrestrial Planet Finder mission, and a dedicated probe of Europa.

RECOMMENDATION: Congress should protect the budget line for Commercial Orbital Transportation Services. This is currently set at approximately \$500 million over the five year budget run out.

RECOMMENDATION: Congress should encourage NASA to broaden and define international participation in the Vision.