



The Best Place to Work, Three Years in a Row

I am delighted to share with you that NASA has been named the Best Place to Work in government in the large agency category for the third year in a row. I couldn't be more proud of our workforce and the wonderful things we've accomplished this year together for our nation.

I want to thank the Partnership for Public Service for their continued recognition of the importance of public service and their efforts to call positive attention to the federal workplace. Here's a link to the full results:

<http://bestplacetowork.org/BPTW/rankings/overall/large>

Those of us who work at NASA know it's a great place to work. We are the world leader in space exploration and cutting-edge science missions and contribute to the economic vitality of our great nation. We challenge our employees to carry out missions that benefit humankind. What job could be better than that?

Just this past week, the entire world watched as *Orion*, the spacecraft in which we'll travel to destinations in deep space, took flight for the first time and performed nearly perfectly on every leg of its 60,000 mile journey to simulate a lunar reentry and splashdown safely in the Pacific Ocean. We'll continue to learn from all the data this important test flight gave us about avionics, the heat shield, and other systems. It was a critical step on our journey to Mars, and I want to thank the *Orion* team and the entire workforce that was cheering it on. It was an incredible example of the things NASA can do, because we do share a fantastic place to work and a dream for improving life for everyone on the planet.

This past Saturday, NASA's *New Horizons* spacecraft came out of hibernation for the final time and began to ready itself for its historic encounter with Pluto next July. After almost nine years of flight, *New Horizons* is literally on Pluto's doorstep – on schedule, in good health, and on course. We look forward to the spacecraft's arrival at Pluto. It's another example of NASA reaching for big goals and raising the bar of human achievement. This year also continues to be an incredible year in Earth Science, with three missions launched already, another coming up this month and another slated for January.

Technology drives exploration and this year among our many Space Technology highlights, we flew an experiment that will help us understand future entry descent and landing technologies. This Low-Density Supersonic Decelerator demonstrates the transformative capabilities and cutting-edge technologies that are being developed, tested and flown today.

This year, NASA also announced our partners for launching astronauts from commercial vehicles by 2017, and our commercial cargo partners continued to work hard resupplying the station and bringing it science experiments as well – helping us to reach the incredible milestone of 14 years of continuous habitation aboard the International Space Station.

NASA aeronautics is with you when you fly, and this year continued to make progress in developing the next generation of air transportation systems (NextGen).

I want to thank each of you in our NASA Family for your contributions to our mission and the

great value you are delivering to the American public. Your hard work and commitment to the ambitious space program we are implementing has made all of this possible. All of the credit for this success goes to you, the folks on the frontlines of keeping the United States the world's leader in space exploration.

I look forward to even more success in 2015. We have a lot of places to go, and together, I have no doubt we will reach new destinations in the solar system and continue to make the technological breakthroughs that inspire future generations. From the entire senior management team, I thank you and wish you all a safe and blessed holiday season!

Charlie B.

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