

**Statement of Ronald R. Spoehel
Nominee to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space
Administration**

Before the

**Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
United States Senate**

July 31, 2007

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as you consider my nomination for the position of Chief Financial Officer of NASA. It is an honor to be here and I am privileged to have been nominated by the President to this post. I also appreciate the time Members of this Committee already have taken to meet with me and consider my nomination. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Members of this Committee in addressing the challenges of maintaining America's preeminent position in pioneering space exploration and aeronautics, while also undertaking vigorous scientific research programs advancing our knowledge and understanding of our own planet.

If confirmed as the NASA Chief Financial Officer, I am committed to working with Administrator Griffin, NASA's dedicated professionals, Congress, the White House, the private sector, and other key constituencies to address the challenges of meeting the President's Vision for Space Exploration and the Nation's objectives for NASA, while undertaking the mission in the most effective and efficient manner possible, especially during a time when there are other competing demands for our Nation's resources.

The position of Chief Financial Officer of any organization carries a tremendous responsibility as the pivotal interface where budget, accountability, and sound fiscal management all reside. It will be my goal, if confirmed, to build upon the progress that has already been made and continue to improve the management, performance, and results for the Agency.

Over my career, I am fortunate to have gained broad financial management and leadership experience as an officer and executive for more than 25 years with a variety of complex, multi-divisional, geographically dispersed companies with operations serving the government and the space community. These positions include having served as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, and a member of the Board of Directors of ManTech International, a NASDAQ-listed company which, for example, I led through the intensive process of implementing the internal controls, accounting and financial reporting systems necessary for Sarbanes-Oxley compliance. I have also served in general management as an executive officer of other global technology companies with

complex multi-divisional operations, including large, established companies such as NYSE-traded Harris Corporation.

With experience as an executive and officer of large, complex, multi-divisional, and geographically dispersed public and private companies, I am familiar with many of the challenges of providing leadership within organizations of global size, complexity, and scale. If I am confirmed, I would bring to NASA broad experience within finance and general management, as well as particular experience in coordinating successful audits for large multinational companies and in implementing shared service centers, operational efficiencies, enhanced reporting and analysis, and internal control systems, similar to many of the requirements under the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act, Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA), the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA), the Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA), and the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA).

The challenges ahead for NASA are many, and, if confirmed, I would make it a priority to meet with the leadership of NASA and with my staff, as well as each of the constituencies with which NASA's CFO organization interfaces, to understand the current key challenges which NASA and its CFO organization face and to work with my staff so that these receive the appropriate attention and resources to ensure Agency success in meeting these challenges. In particular, I would familiarize myself with the existing NASA plan to address its financial management challenges and assure there is a sound plan for addressing any deficiencies. I would work with my staff to refine and implement plans as may be appropriate and required to meet the objectives for such plan. I would also make it a priority to work with my staff to support Agency efforts to achieve unqualified audit opinions, maintain appropriate financial systems, implement strong internal control systems, and be a first-class management organization.

I believe public service is a duty, a privilege and an honor. Both of my late parents had served in the federal government and I had an abiding interest in space and aeronautics instilled as my father pursued his aerospace engineering career and I had the opportunity to witness many pioneering events in the industry. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity, if confirmed, to address the challenges of the position and to bring my financial and leadership experience into the service of NASA and the federal government.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I thank you, again, for your consideration of my nomination and I look forward to answering any questions you may have.