

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TECHNOLOGIST

A 3D rendered scene with a yellow and orange color palette. It features various mechanical components like gears, springs, and shafts. In the background, a person is standing on a platform, looking towards the left. The scene is lit from the left, creating strong shadows and highlights.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Presentation at the Astrophysics Subcommittee Meeting

Oct. 20, 2011

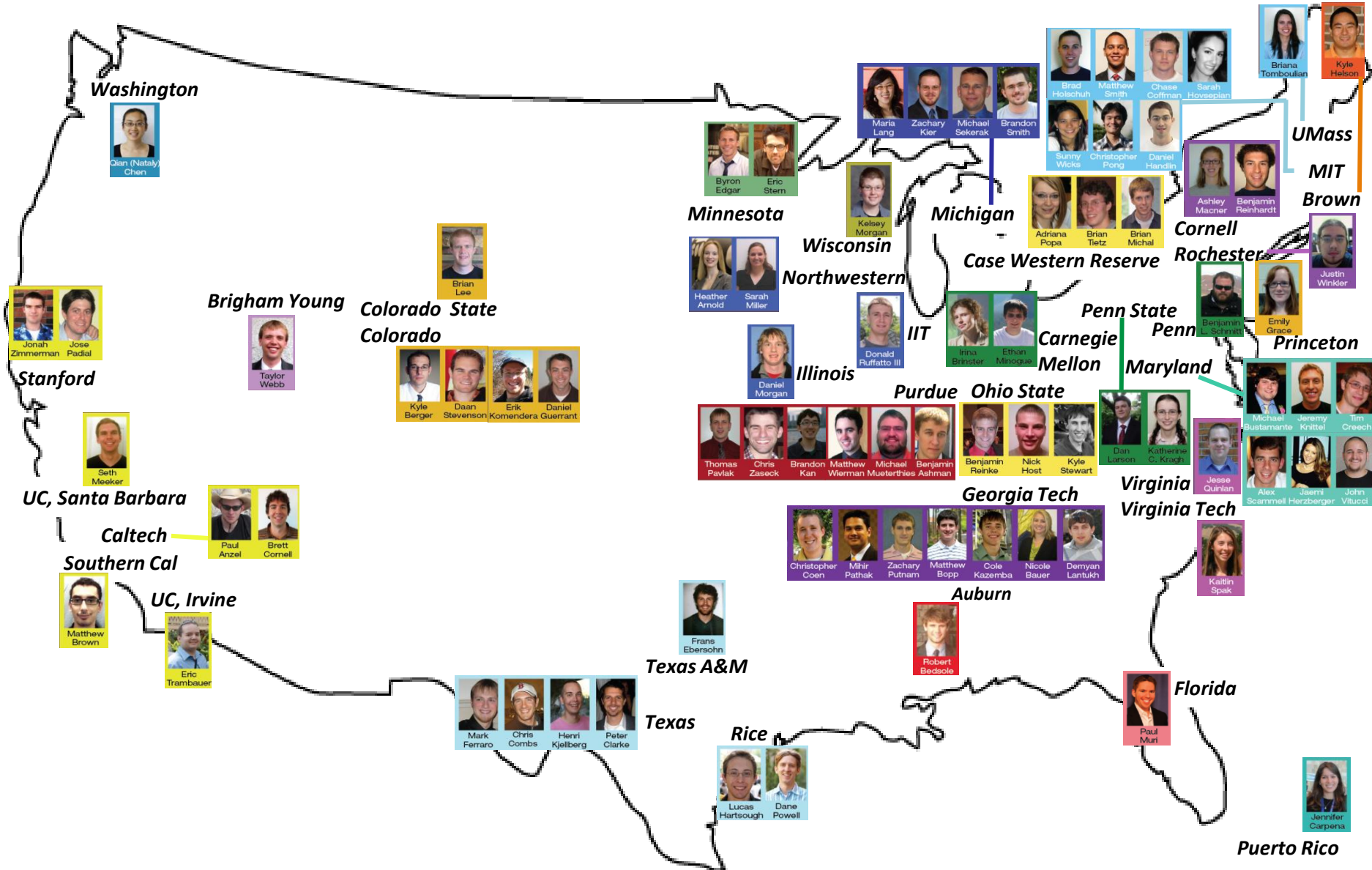
Claudia Meyer

Space Technology Research Grants Program Executive

National Asset: The Inaugural Class of NSTRF



80 Students - 37 Universities - 22 States and U.S. Territories





“NASA Space Technology Fellows will perform innovative space technology research while building the skills necessary to become future technological leaders.”

July 27, 2011

RELEASE : 11-246

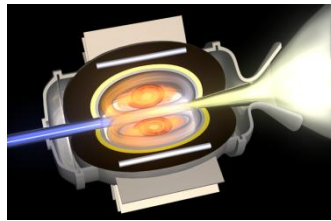
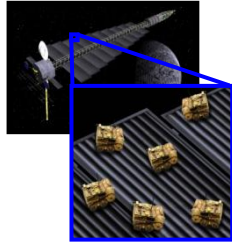
NASA Awards Space Technology Research Fellowship Grants

http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2011/jul/HQ_11-246_STRF_Awards.html

Space Technology Research Grants - Program Overview



Level II Program Office: GRC



Objective: Accelerate the development of push technologies through innovative efforts with high risk/high payoff

- **Early Stage Innovation -Space Technology Research Opportunities (ESI-STRO):** Low TRL technology portfolio for groundbreaking research in advanced space technology
- **NASA Space Technology Research Fellowships (NSTRF):** Competitive selection of U.S. Citizen / permanent resident graduate students developing promising technologies in support of future NASA missions and strategic goals

Acquisition Strategy

- **ESI-STRO:** NRA solicitation expected annually. Awards are grants, cooperative agreements, contracts or intra-agency transfers.
- **NSTRF:** Annual solicitation consistent with academic calendar. Awards are training grants to accredited U.S. universities. Selected candidates perform graduate student research on their respective campuses, at NASA Centers and not-for-profit Research and Development (R&D) labs.

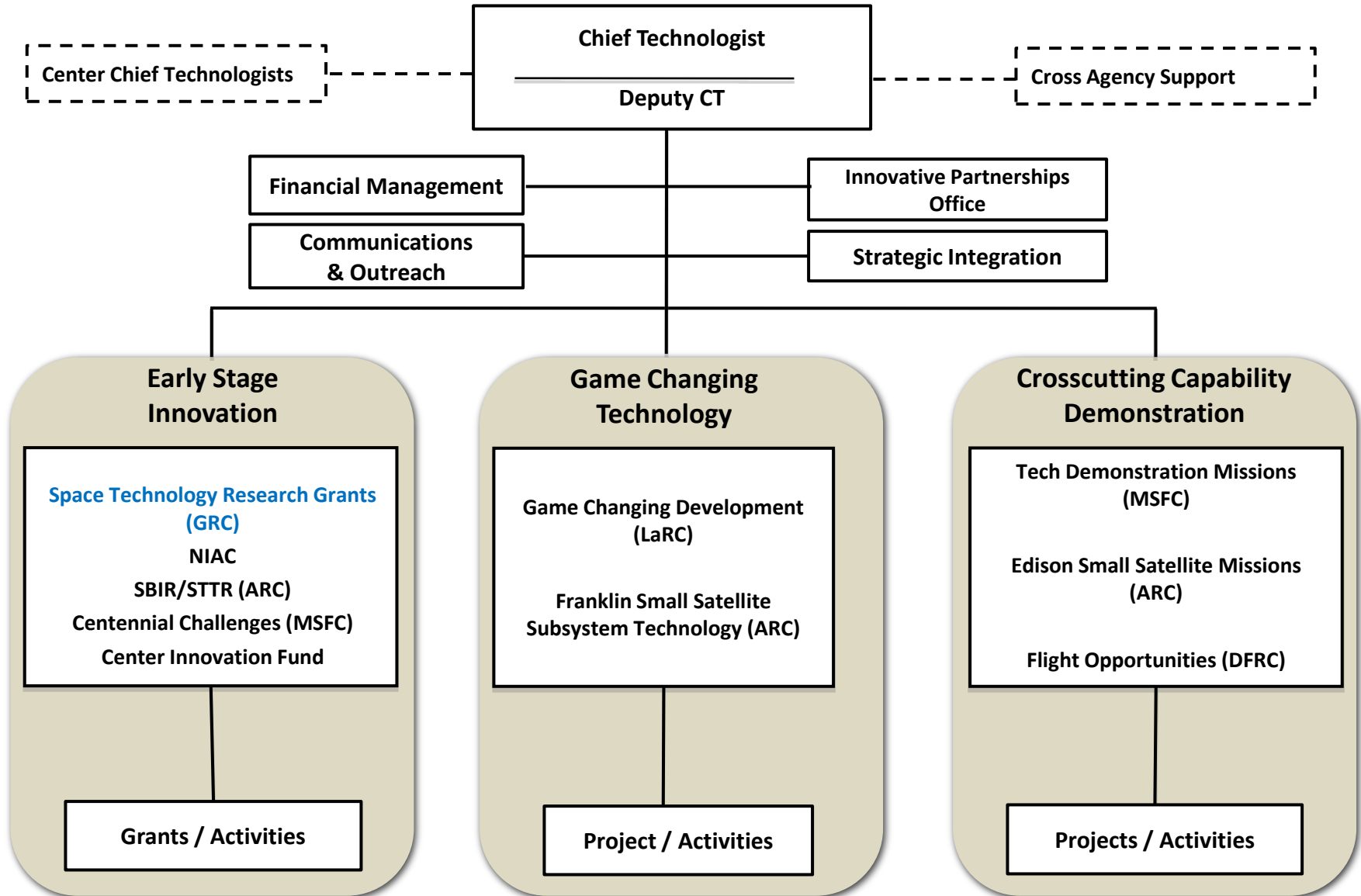
Awards

- **ESI-STRO:** Typical 12 months awards at \$250K. 100+ per year.
- **NSTRF:** Building up to 500 active students per year.

Collaboration

- **ESI-STRO:** Proposals welcome from all sources, including academia, industry, all U.S. government agencies and non-profit organizations; teaming encouraged
- **NSTRF:** Each student is matched with a professional advisor at NASA Centers or R&D Lab

Office of the Chief Technologist Organization



The Inaugural Solicitation and Eligibility Requirements



NASA SPACE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (NSTRF) - Fall 2011 Fellowship Start

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Call for proposals..... | December 29, 2010 |
| Proposals due..... | February 23, 2011 at 11:59 PM ET |
| Announcement of new fellowships..... | May 18, 2011 (target) |
| Fellowship acceptance deadline..... | May 27, 2011 (target) |
| Start date of fellowships..... | August 1, 2011 (target) |

<http://tinyurl.com/NSTRF11-OCT>

Inaugural call cover page

Minimum Eligibility Requirements for NSTRF11

1. U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
2. Completed no more than twelve months of full-time graduate study in pursuit of the degree that would be supported by the fellowship.
3. Must be enrolled as a full-time Master's or Doctoral student at the proposing U.S. university for the Fall 2011 term.
4. An individual accepting this award may not concurrently receive any other Federal fellowship or traineeship.

The Solicitation - Proposal Components



The student shall be the principal author of the Educational Research Area of Inquiry and Goals, with minimal assistance from the current/prospective faculty advisor.

1 Educational Research Area of Inquiry and Goals

- summary of educational program objectives
- research interests with associated relevant hypotheses and possible approaches
- benefits of proposed research
- benefits of on-site NASA experience (option of indicating Center preference)



2 Schedule of degree program

- proposed start and completion dates
- anticipated milestones

4 Statement from faculty advisor (one page)

- planned use of faculty advisor allowance
- If applicable, brief description of ongoing or pending research awards from NASA that are related to the student's Educational Research Area of Inquiry and Goals.

6 Transcripts

- undergraduate
- graduate

3 Curriculum Vitae (one page)

- faculty advisor
- student

5 Four signed letters of recommendation

- from academic advisor
- from other faculty members or professionals with detailed knowledge of student's abilities

7 GRE general test scores

A Basis for Inspiration



TA01 • LAUNCH PROPULSION SYSTEMS

SOLID ROCKET PROPULSION SYSTEMS

- Propellants
- Case Materials
- Nozzle Systems
- Hybrid Rocket Propulsion Systems
- Fundamental Solid Propulsion Technologies

LIQUID ROCKET PROPULSION SYSTEMS

- IH / LOX Based
- RP / LOX Based
- CH / LOX Based
- Detonation Wave Engines (Closed Cycle)

LIQUID ROCKET PROPULSION SYSTEMS

- Fundamental Liquid Propulsion Technologies

AIR BREATHING PROPULSION SYSTEMS

- TRCC
- RBCC

Detonation Wave Engines (Open Cycle)

- Turbine Based Jet Engines (Flyback Boosters)
- Ramjet / Scramjet Engines (Accelerators)
- Deeply-cooled Air Cycles
- Air Collection & Enrichment System
- Fundamental Air Breathing Propulsion Technologies

ANCILLARY PROPULSION SYSTEMS

- Auxiliary Control Systems
- Main Propulsion Systems (Excluding Engines)
- Launch Abort Systems
- Thrust Vector Control Systems
- Health Management & Sensors
- Pyro & Separation Systems
- Fundamental Ancillary Propulsion Technologies

UNCONVENTIONAL / OTHER PROPULSION SYSTEMS

- Ground Launch Assist
- Air Launch / Drop Systems
- Space Tether Assist
- Beamed Energy / Energy Addition
- Nuclear
- High Energy Density Materials/Propellants

TA02 • IN-SPACE PROPULSION TECHNOLOGIES

CHEMICAL PROPULSION

- Liquid Storable
- Liquid Cryogenic
- Gels
- Solid
- Hybrid
- Cold Gas/Warm Gas
- Micro-propulsion

NON-CHEMICAL PROPULSION

- Electric Propulsion
- Solar Sail Propulsion
- Thermal Propulsion
- Tether Propulsion

ADVANCED (TRL <3) PROPULSION TECHNOLOGIES

- Beamed Energy Propulsion
- Electric Sail Propulsion
- Fusion Propulsion
- High Energy Density Materials
- Antimatter Propulsion
- Advanced Fission
- Breakthrough Propulsion

SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGIES

- Engine Health Monitoring & Safety
- Propellant Storage & Transfer
- Materials & Manufacturing Technologies
- Heat Rejection
- Power

TA03 • SPACE POWER & ENERGY STORAGE

POWER GENERATION

- Energy Harvesting
- Chemical (Fuel Cells, Heat Engines)
- Solar (Photo-Voltaic & Thermal)
- Radioisotope
- Fission
- Fusion

ENERGY STORAGE

- Batteries
- Flywheels
- Regenerative Fuel Cells

POWER MANAGEMENT & DISTRIBUTION

- FDIR
- Management & Control
- Distribution & Transmission
- Wireless Power Transmission
- Conversion & Regulation

CROSS CUTTING TECHNOLOGY

- Analytical Tools
- Green Energy Impact
- Multi-functional Structures
- Alternative Fuels

TA04 • ROBOTICS, TELE-ROBOTICS & AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

SENSING & PERCEPTION

- Stereo Vision
- LIDAR
- Proximity Sensing
- Sensing Non-Geometric Terrain Properties
- Tactile Sensing Arrays
- Gravity Sensors & Celestial Nav.
- Terrain Relative Navigation
- Real-time Self-calibrating of Hand-eye Systems

MOBILITY

- Simultaneous Localiz. & Mapping
- Hazard Detection Algorithms
- Active Illumination
- 3-D Path Planning w/ Uncertainty
- Long-life Extr. Enviro. Mechanisms
- Robotic Jet Backpacks
- Smart Tethers
- Robot Swarms
- Walking in Micro-g

MANIPULATION

- Motion Planning Alg., High DOF Sensing & Control
- Robot Arms (light, high strength)
- Dexterous Manipul., Robot Hands
- Sensor Fusion for Grasping
- Grasp Planning Algorithms
- Robotic Drilling Mechanisms
- Multi-arm / Finger Manipulation
- Planning with Uncertainty

HUMAN-SYSTEMS INTEGRATION

- Crew Decision Support Systems
- Immersive Visualization
- Distributed Collaboration
- Multi-Agent Coordination
- Haptic Displays
- Displaying Range Data to Humans

AUTONOMY

- Spacecraft Control Systems
- Vehicle Health, Prog./Diag Systems
- Human Life Support Systems
- Planning/Scheduling Resources
- Operations
- Integrated Systems Health Management
- FDIR & Diagnosis
- System Monitoring & Prognosis
- V&V of Complex Adaptive Sys's
- Automated Software Generation
- Software Reliability
- Semi Automatic Systems

AUTON. RENDEZVOUS & DOCKING

- Rendezvous and Capture
- Low impact & Autonomous Docking Systems & Interfaces
- Relative Navigation Sensors
- Robust AR&D GN&C Algorithms & FS
- Onboard Mission Manager
- AR&D Integration & Standardization

RTA SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

- Human safety
- Refueling Interfaces & Assoc. Tools
- Modular / Serviceable Interfaces
- High Perf., Low Power Onboard Computers
- Environment Tolerance
- Thermal Control
- Robot-to-Suit Interfaces
- Common Human-Robot Interfaces
- Crew Self Sufficiency

TA05 • COMMUNICATION & NAVIGATION

OPTICAL COMM. & NAVIGATION

- Detector Development
- Large Apertures
- Lasers
- Acquisition & Tracking
- Atmospheric Mitigation

RADIO FREQUENCY COMMUNICATIONS

- Spectrum Efficient Technologies
- Power Efficient Technologies
- Propagation
- Flight & Ground Systems
- Earth Launch & Reentry Comm.
- Antennas

INTERNETWORKING

- Disruptive Tolerant Networking
- Adaptive Network Topology
- Information Assurance
- Integrated Network Management

POSITION, NAVIGATION, AND TIMING

- Timekeeping
- Time Distribution
- Onboard Auto Navigation & Maneuver
- Sensors & Vision Processing Systems
- Auto Precision Formation Flying
- Auto Approach & Landing

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGIES

- Radio Systems
- Ultra Wideband
- Cognitive Networks
- Science from the Comm. System
- Hybrid Optical Comm. & Nav. Sensors
- RF/Optical Hybrid Technology

REVISIONARY CONCEPTS

- X-Ray Navigation
- X-Ray Communications
- Neurine-Based Navigation & Tracking
- Quantum Key Distribution
- Quantum Communications
- SiQIF Microwave Amplifier
- Reconfigurable Large Apertures

TA06 • HUMAN HEALTH, LIFE SUPPORT & HABITATION SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL & LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS & HABITATION SYS.

- Air Revitalization
- Water Recovery & Management
- Waste Management
- Habitation

EXTRAVEHICULAR ACTIVITY SYSTEMS

- Pressure Garment
- Portable Life Support System
- Power, Avionics and Software

HUMAN HEALTH & PERFORMANCE

- Medical Diagnosis / Prognosis
- Long-Duration Health
- Behavioral Health & Performance
- Human Factors & Performance

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, SAFETY & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- Sensors: Air, Water, Microbial, etc.
- Fire: Detection, Suppression
- Protective Clothing / Breathing
- Remediation

RADIATION

- Risk Assessment Modeling
- Radiation Mitigation
- Protection Systems
- Space Weather Prediction
- Monitoring Technology

TA07 • HUMAN EXPLORATION DESTINATION SYSTEMS

IN-SITU RESOURCE UTILIZATION

- Destination Reconnaissance, Prospecting, & Mapping
- Resource Acquisition
- Consumables Production
- Manufacturing & Infrastructure Emplacement

SUSTAINABILITY & SUPPORTABILITY

- Logistics Systems
- Maintenance Systems
- Repair Systems

"ADVANCED" HUMAN MOBILITY SYSTEMS

- EVA Mobility
- Surface Mobility
- Off-Surface Mobility

"ADVANCED" HABITAT SYSTEMS

- Integrated Habitat Systems
- Habitat Evolution

MISSION OPERATIONS & SAFETY

- Crew Training
- Environmental Protection
- Remote Mission Operations
- Planetary Safety

CROSS-CUTTING SYSTEMS

- Modeling, Simulations & Destination Characterization
- Construction & Assembly
- Dust Prevention & Mitigation

TA08 • SCIENCE INSTRUMENTS, OBSERVATORIES & SENSOR SYSTEMS

REMOTE SENSING INSTRUMENTS / SENSORS

- Detectors & Focal Planes
- Electronics
- Optical Components
- Microwave / Radio
- Lasers
- Cryogenic / Thermal

OBSERVATORIES

- Mirror Systems
- Structures & Antennas
- Distributed Aperture
- In-Situ INSTRUMENTS / SENSOR
- Particles: Charged & Neutral
- Fields & Waves
- In-Situ



TA09 • ENTRY, DESCENT & LANDING SYSTEMS

AEROASSIST & ATMOSPHERIC ENTRY

- Rigid Thermal Protection Systems
- Flexible Thermal Protection Systems
- Rigid Hypersonic Decelerators
- Deployable Hypersonic Decelerators
- Instrumentation & Health Monitoring
- Entry Modeling & Simulation

DESCENT

- Attached Deployable Decelerators
- Trailing Deployable Decelerators
- Supersonic Retropropulsion
- GN&C Sensors
- Descent Modeling & Simulation

LANDING

- Touchdown Systems
- Egress & Deployment Systems
- Propulsion Systems
- Large Body GN&C
- Small Body Systems
- Landing Modeling & Simulation

VEHICLE SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

- Architecture Analyses
- Separation Systems
- System Integration & Analyses
- Atmosphere & Surface Characterization

TA10 • NANOTECHNOLOGY

ENGINEERED MATERIALS & STRUCTURES

- Lightweight Structures
- Damage Tolerant Systems
- Coatings
- Adhesives
- Thermal Protection & Control

ENERGY GENERATION & STORAGE

- Energy Storage
- Energy Generation
- Propulsion
- Propellants
- Propulsion Components
- In-Space Propulsion

SENSORS, ELECTRONICS & DEVICES

- Sensors & Actuators
- Nanoelectronics
- Miniature Instruments



TA11 • MODELING, SIMULATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & PROCESSING

COMPUTING

- Flight Computing
- Ground Computing

MODELING

- Software Modeling & Model-Checking
- Integrated Hardware & Software Modeling
- Human-System Performance Modeling
- Science & Engineering Modeling
- Frameworks, Languages, Tools & Standards

SIMULATION

- Distributed Simulation
- Integrated System Lifecycle Simulation
- Simulation-Based Systems Engineering
- Simulation-Based Training & Decision Support Systems

INFORMATION PROCESSING

- Science, Engineering & Mission Data Lifecycle
- Intelligent Data Understanding
- Semantic Technologies
- Collaborative Science & Engineering
- Advanced Mission Systems

TA12 • MATERIALS, STRUCTURES, MECHANICAL SYSTEMS & MANUFACTURING

MATERIALS

- Lightweight Structure
- Computational Design
- Flexible Material Systems
- Environment
- Special Materials
- Thermal Protection & Control

STRUCTURES

- Lightweight Concepts
- Design & Certification Methods
- Reliability & Sustainment
- Test Tools & Methods
- Innovative, Multifunctional Concepts

MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

- Deployables, Docking and Interfaces
- Mechanism Life Extension Systems
- Electro-mechanical, Mechanical & Micromechanisms
- Design & Analysis Tools and Methods
- Reliability / Life Assessment / Health Monitoring
- Certification Methods

MANUFACTURING

- Manufacturing Processes
- Intelligent Integrated Manufacturing and Cyber Physical Systems
- Electronics & Optics Manufacturing Process
- Sustainable Manufacturing

CROSS-CUTTING

- Nondestructive Evaluation & Sensors
- Model-Based Certification & Sustainment Methods
- Loads and Environments

TA13 • GROUND & LAUNCH SYSTEMS PROCESSING

TECHNOLOGIES TO OPTIMIZE THE OPERATIONAL LIFE-CYCLE

- Storage, Distribution & Conservation of Fluids
- Automated Alignment, Coupling, & Assembly Systems
- Autonomous Command & Control for Ground and Integrated Vehicle/Ground Systems

ENVIRONMENTAL AND GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

- Corrosion Prevention, Detection, & Mitigation
- Environmental Remediation & Site Restoration
- Preservation of Natural Ecosystems
- Alternate Energy Prototypes

TECHNOLOGIES TO INCREASE RELIABILITY AND MISSION AVAILABILITY

- Advanced Launch Technologies
- Environment-Hardened Materials and Structures
- Inspection, Anomaly Detection & Identification

- Fault Isolation and Diagnostics
- Prognostics Technologies
- Repair, Mitigation, and Recovery Technologies
- Communications, Networking, Timing & Telemetry

TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE MISSION SAFETY/MISSION RISK

- Range Tracking, Surveillance & Flight Safety Technologies
- Landing & Recovery Systems & Components
- Weather Prediction and Mitigation
- Robotics / Terrestrial Robotics
- Safety Systems

TA14 • THERMAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

CRYOGENIC SYSTEMS

- Passive Thermal Control
- Active Thermal Control
- Integration & Modeling

THERMAL CONTROL SYSTEMS

- Heat Acquisition
- Heat Transfer
- Heat Rejection & Energy Storage

THERMAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

- Entry / Ascend TPS
- Plume Shielding (Convective & Radiative)
- Sensor Systems & Measurement Technologies

Space Technology Roadmaps STR • TABS TECHNOLOGY AREA BREAKDOWN STRUCTURE

Another Source for Inspiration: Space Technology Grand Challenges



Cutting-edge technological solutions that solve important space-related problems, radically improve existing capabilities or deliver new space capabilities altogether.

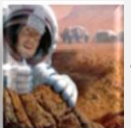
Expand human presence in space



Economical Space Access



Space Health and Medicine

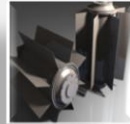


Telepresence in Space



Space Colonization

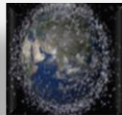
Manage in-space resources



Affordable Abundant Power



Space Way Station

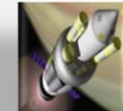


Space Debris Hazard Mitigation

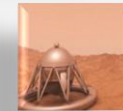


Near-Earth Object
Detection and Mitigation

Enable transformational space exploration and scientific discovery



Efficient In-Space
Transportation



High-Mass Planetary
Surface Access



All Access Mobility



Surviving Extreme Space
Environments



New Tools of Discovery

Details about the Space Technology Grand Challenges are available at
http://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/strategic_integration/grand_challenges_detail.html

Proposal Evaluation and Selection



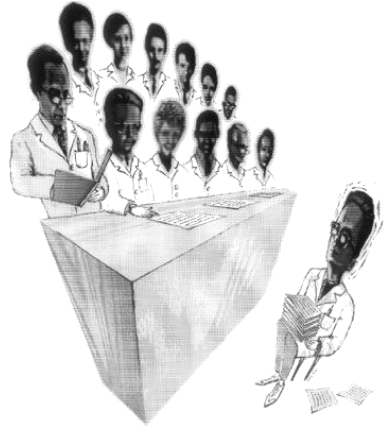
All eligible fellowship applications will undergo a technical review by experts.

Criteria for Evaluation

Merit of the Applicant's Proposed Educational Research Area of Inquiry and Goals

Relevance of the proposed research to NASA's Space Technology goal and associated outcomes

Academic excellence based upon an applicant's transcripts, GRE scores, four signed letters of recommendation by the student's proposed academic advisor and other faculty members or professionals with detailed knowledge of the student's abilities, and a curriculum vitae that describes relevant work experience, publications and honors and awards.



Factors

- candidate's potential in terms of scientific curiosity, creativity, acumen, and success in research appropriate to his/her educational level, as indicated in their planned course of study
- research area description, knowledge of relevant research literature and relevance to the strategic goal stated in Section 3
- technical merit as appropriate to the candidate's educational level
- organizational, analytical, and written skills



NOTE: Subsequent to the technical review, candidates deemed excellent will be submitted to the Office of the Chief Technologist at NASA Headquarters for final consideration and selection.

NSTRF11 Annual Award Values



| Category | Maximum value – M.S. candidate* | Maximum value – Ph.D. candidate** |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Student Stipend | \$30,000 | \$36,000 |
| Faculty Advisor Allowance | \$9,000 | \$9,000 |
| On-site NASA Center/R&D lab experience Allowance | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Health Insurance Allowance | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| Tuition and Fees Allowance | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| TOTAL | \$60,000 | \$66,000 |

*NSTRF M.S. Support – up to 2 years

**NSTRF Ph.D. Support – up to 4 years

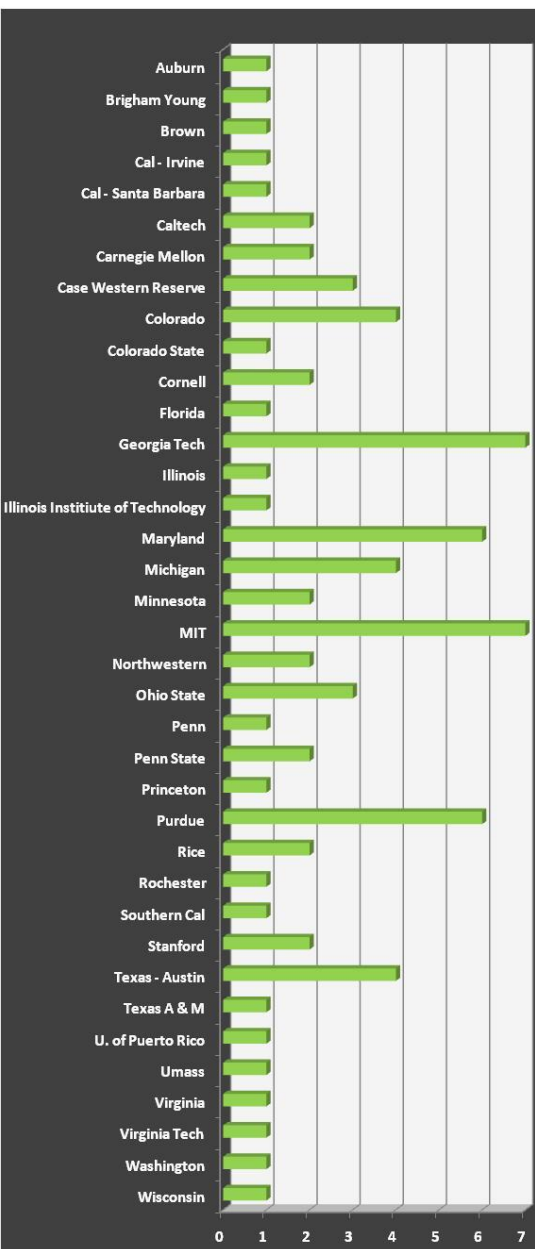
- A fellowship award is issued as a training grant to the student's host university.
- Separate from the awards, the Program has allocated resources to cover mentor time and also costs associated with hosting/interacting with the Fellow.



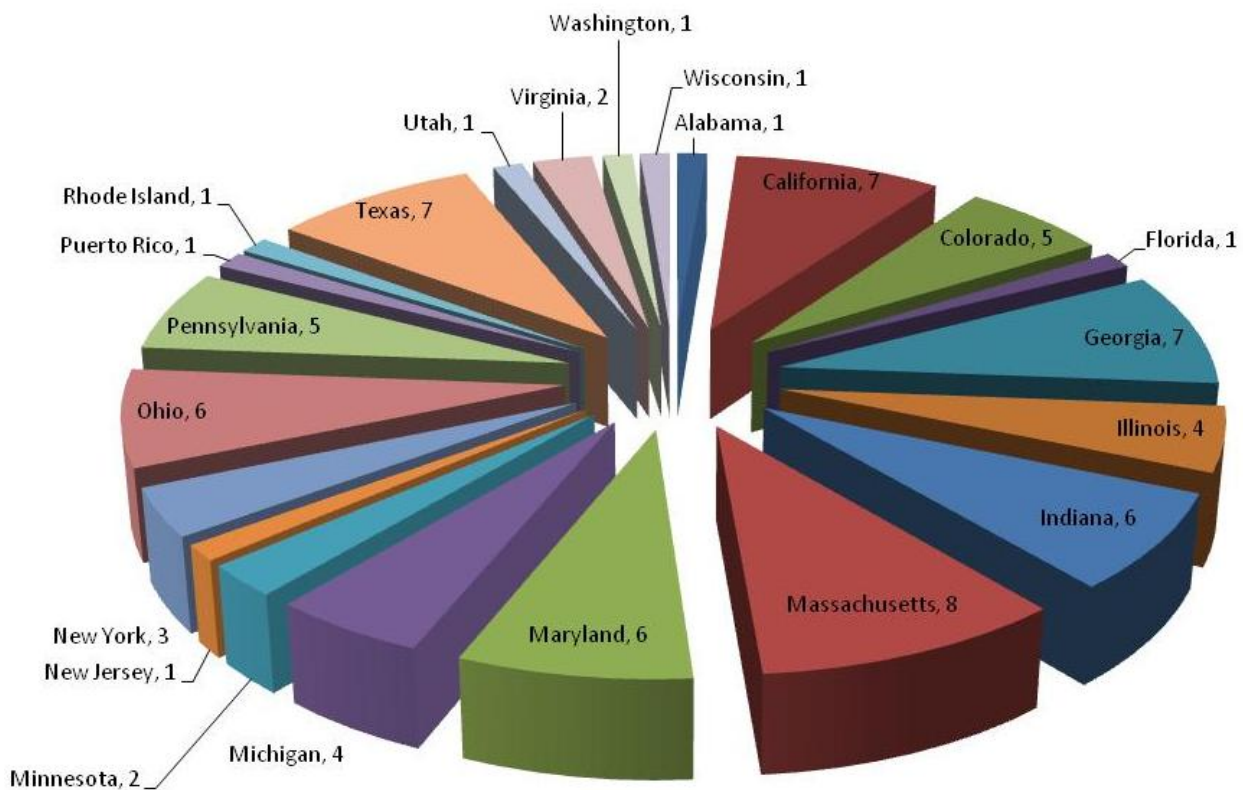
NSTRF11 Awards by University and State



Number of Awards by University



Number of Awards by State



NSTRF11 Awards by Technology Area



TA: 1

Launch Propulsion



2

In-Space Propulsion



3

Space Power/Storage



4

Robotics



5

Comm./Navigation



6

Human Health



7

Human Expl. Dest.



8

Sci. Instr./Sensors



9

EDL



10

Nanotechnology



11

Modeling/Simulation



12

Materials/Structures



13

Ground Operations



14

Thermal

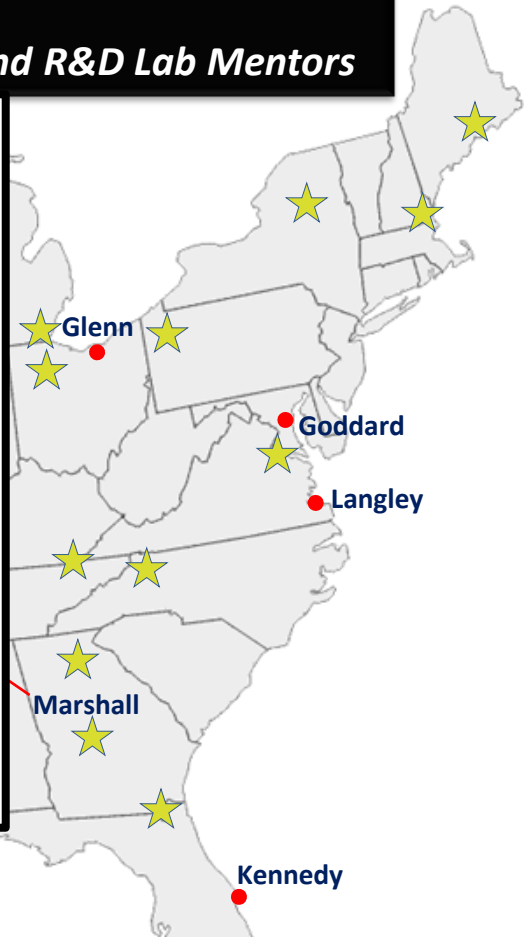
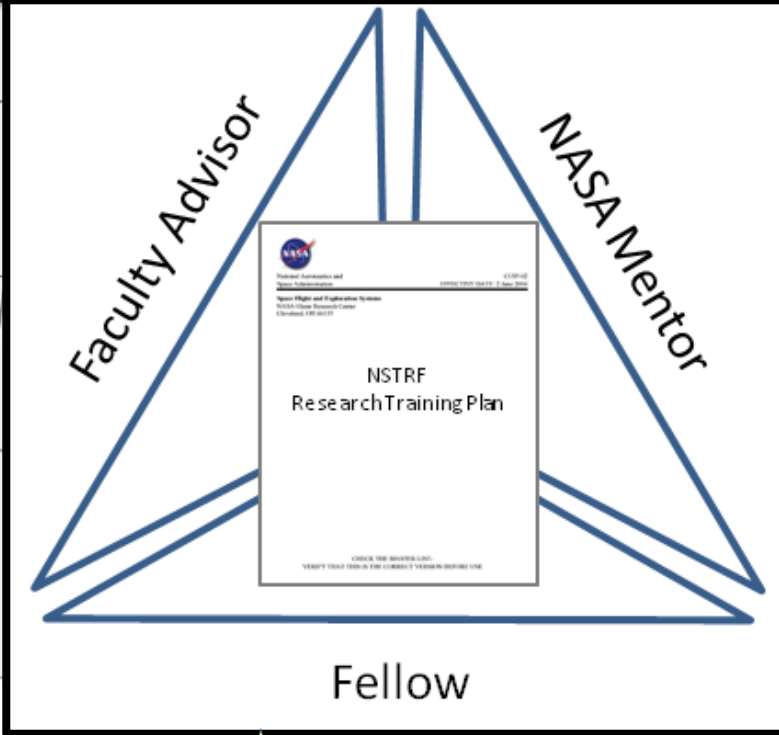
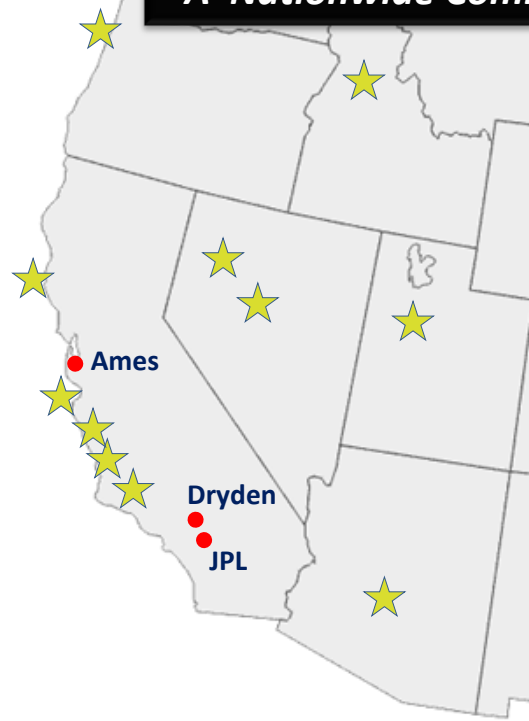


Completing the Vision: Mentors

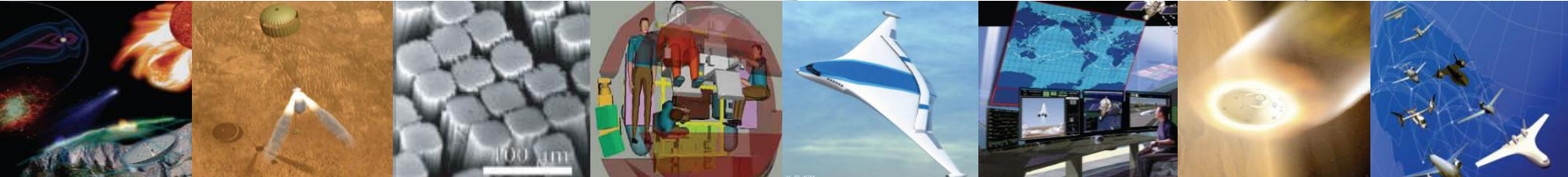
*We've lined the future space technology
stars up with the best mentors...*



**Space Technology Research Fellowships:
A Nationwide Community of University Students, Professors, and R&D Lab Mentors**



- ★ Locations of hypothetical Fellow host universities
- NASA Center



Find Out More About the Awards



011 Inaugural Class - Windows Internet Explorer

novation/grants/2011_inaugural_class.html

NASA Home > Offices > OCT > Early Stage Innovation > Grants

Office of the Chief Technologist

Text Size + - Tweet 4 Like 113

NASA Space Technology Research Fellows – 2011 Inaugural Class

View the NASA Press Release

| Student | Host University | Research Topic |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Anzel, Paul | California Institute of Technology | Development of Nonlinear Phased Array Systems for Non-Destructive Evaluation and Structural Health Monitoring of Aerospace Structures |
| Arnold, Heather | Northwestern University | Excitonics based on carbon nanomaterials: A pathway toward low-power, high-speed, and radiation-hard computation |
| Ashman, Benjamin Wesley | Purdue University | Incorporation of GNSS Multipath to Improve Autonomous Rendezvous, Docking and Proximity Operations in Space |
| Bauer, Nicole Christine | Georgia Institute of Technology | Small Probes for Orbital Return of Experiments Mission Design |
| Bedsole, Robert | Auburn University | Characterization and modeling of high-strain rate failure response of nanocomposites |
| Berger, Kyle | University of Colorado, Boulder | Prediction of Regolith Ejection during Extraterrestrial Landings |
| Bopp, Matthew | Georgia Institute of Technology | Implementation and Assessment of a Time-Accurate Aeroelastic Model for Analysis of Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerators |
| Brinster, Irina | Carnegie Mellon University | Mission Trade Space Evaluation through Multiphysics Design and Optimization |
| Brown, Matthew | University of Southern California | Task allocation using continuous resource distributed markov decision processes |
| Bustamante, Michael | University of Maryland | Burning Rate Emulator Experiments for Spacecraft Fire |




Text Size + - Tweet 0 Like

Development of Nonlinear Phased Array Systems for Non-Destructive Evaluation and Structural Health Monitoring of Aerospace Structures

Paul Anzel
California Institute of Technology

Acoustic imaging has played an essential role in ensuring that structures and vehicles are in sound condition both during their construction and their operation. Our lab has developed a new sound focusing system: a phased array (colloquially referred to as an "acoustic lens") based upon wave transmission through adjustable non-linear media. For my research, I will develop a prototype of this system and explore its potential for imaging.



The lens is built from parallel chains of metallic spheres. These chains support the transmission of compact single wave pulses, and by pre-compressing a chain we can modify the signal speed within it. If the chains are differentially compressed and coupled with a linear medium, it is possible to time the transmission of a pulse so that the response it generates in the linear medium coalesces to a small volume, generating a "sound bullet." This device offers a unique combination of advantages over current techniques for acoustic imaging as it is capable of dynamically changing its focal point, it is able to support the creation of a single transient pulse (simplifying the task of signal analysis and possibly allowing for a more accurate result), and it is capable of supporting a powerful signal.

To develop the lens for practical use, three major issues will be addressed in order to determine the boundaries of its performance. First, the limits of where the signal can be focused will be studied. Second, methods to improve transmission of the signal to the linear system will be explored. And third, the limitations of signal power and the degradation of performance due to plastic deformation of the spheres will be determined.

With these issues addressed, I will construct a prototype of the lens. Once the prototype has been built research will then shift towards applying the lens to imaging. I will first test the ability of the lens to image features within bulk media and then

Developing the technological foundation for NASA's future science and exploration missions...providing the nation with a pipeline of highly skilled engineers and technologists to improve U.S. competitiveness.

The full listing of NSTRF11 awarded proposals with abstracts is available on the NASA OCT website at http://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/early_stage_innovation/grants/2011_inaugural_class.html