



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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## **IFPTE Applauds President's FY11 NASA Budget** **Union praises President's vision for revitalizing Research & Technology**

WASHINGTON, DC – The International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE) issued the following statements in response to the release of the President's proposed Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) NASA budget.

IFPTE President Gregory Junemann made the following statement:

"It is extremely gratifying that, despite the serious fiscal constraints imposed by the current stressed economic conditions, that President Obama recognizes the acute need to continue to invest in America's future. In providing NASA with a top-line increase of \$276 million over this year's budget and in making key new investments in NASA scientific research and technology development, the President is showing a clear understanding that America's status as the world's only superpower is directly tied to our leadership in aerospace science and technology. He is also telling NASA's employees that he has full confidence in their ability to deliver cutting-edge aerospace R&T for the American people. As we transition from the unsustainable fiscal policies of the previous Administration, IFPTE looks forward to working with the Obama Administration and Congress on critical budgetary details so as to maximize the efficient utilization of NASA's existing physical and intellectual capabilities, while also fostering the creation of new high-quality aerospace jobs for young Americans. We are confident that the new emphasis on vigorous ground- and ISS-based R&T will inspire a new generation of American kids to become scientists and engineers, while also ultimately enabling a more realistic long-term plan for Human and Robotic Space Exploration beyond Low-Earth Orbit."

NASA Council of IFPTE Locals (NCIL) President, Dr. Lee Stone said:

"First, NASA's employees are ecstatic that the Administration has decided to abandon the faux full-cost accounting policies of the previous Administration that not only provided inaccurate data to Congress and the American people, but also worked to undermine the independence and scientific integrity of NASA's technical work. The decision of the new Administration to implement a unified labor account will not only save NASA tens of millions of dollars a year in unnecessary administrative overhead, but also will provide much greater budgetary transparency.

Pg. 2 – IFPTE Press Release (2/1/2010)

“Second, the increase of the Science budget to \$5 billion, of the Aeronautics R&T budget to \$580 million, and of the long-lead strategic Space R&T budget to \$572 million (along with its transfer to an account independent of the Exploration Systems account) will once again make NASA the uncontested world leader in aerospace scientific discovery and technology development.

“Third, the dramatically accelerated increase in funding for the development of a new heavy-lift launch vehicle will harness NASA’s unparalleled in-house rocket development capability towards the true key to any successful future Human Spaceflight program, a new launch system capable of doing what previous generations achieved through Saturn V and Shuttle. While the devil will be in the details, the above three strategic decisions signal a dramatic and promising change for America’s space agency. As we move forward on this new and existing journey, NASA must however work diligently to heal morale across the Agency by acknowledging and addressing the wound that lingers whenever dedicated public servants have been asked to sacrifice for years for a project that doesn’t come to fruition.”

IFPTE is NASA’s largest federal employee union, representing thousands of NASA workers across the country.

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