



FY 2017 Report on NASA Sponsored Large Conferences

NASA Sponsored Conferences with Agency Spend of \$100,000 or More

October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017

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Overview: In accordance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-17-08, Section 2 – Conferences, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is providing this report on conferences. This report provides a summary of conference activities by NASA in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. It includes a brief overview of each conference’s purpose to highlight the valuable role that conferences play in NASA’s mission, such as in key dissemination and exchange of cutting edge scientific and technological knowledge.

The Space Act of 1958 requires NASA to “provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning its activities and the results thereof.” Conferences provide an important vehicle for accomplishing this mandate. NASA scientists, engineers and leaders present scientific and technical papers and participate in interchanges on leading-edge research and technology with peers in the Federal Government, academia, the science community, the aeronautics and aerospace industries and international partners. NASA attended and sponsored conferences address a broad and diverse range of scientific and engineering challenges faced in carrying out its missions, including Earth science research, advanced aeronautics and the cutting-edge technologies needed for both current and planned robotic and human space flight programs.

In addition to facilitating the dissemination and advancement of scientific research, conferences also serve as a cost-effective way for NASA to carry out other mission-related purposes, such as educational outreach and program development, planning and information gathering. For example, conferences on program management provide opportunities for examination of current trends in aerospace project and engineering management; offering forums for the exchange and dissemination of best practices, new ideas, and training for managers across NASA to help the Agency cost-effectively meet the toughest challenges in space exploration today.

FY 2017 Conferences: Contrary to prior years’ annual report including sponsored and non-sponsored conferences at or exceeding \$100K, in line with M-17-08, this year’s report only includes conferences that are agency sponsored with total costs at or exceeding \$100K. NASA participated in 9 conferences in FY 2017 for which it sponsored and spent \$100,000 or more. Net conference expenses for the 2017 fiscal year, for sponsored conferences costing the Agency \$100,000 or more, totaled approximately \$1.6 million. Detailed information on the events approved under the justification and approval process under M-12-12 as amended by OMB M-17-08 follows.

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
2016 NASA Procurement Training Conference	Atlanta, GA	11/8/2016	11/12/26	\$245,392	99
<p>Web site Link: http://procurement.nasa.gov</p> <p>Purpose: The NASA procurement workforce performs a vital mission within the agency and every procurement workforce member (contracting officers and contract specialists) is mandated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to obtain a professional certification or designation in contracting evidencing their experience, training and education. Once certified, there is an additional mandatory OMB requirement to retain certification validity by engaging in 80 hours of continuous learning activities every two years. This conference provides targeted training for attendees in support of the certification and continuous learning mandates. Absent participation in this training event, these individuals would seek and participate in multiple training classes to meet the CL requirement. Similar training, if sought through commercial training providers, typically cost at least \$1,600 per seat plus travel costs since they are generally not available in areas near the NASA Centers.</p>					

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
NASA Environmental Conference	Houston, TX	4/3/2017	4/7/2017	\$ 146,998	105
<p>Web site Link: http://www.nasa.gov/offices/emd/home/</p> <p>Purpose: This biennial event provides the opportunity for face-to-face meetings between the communities of practice comprising and supporting the Environmental Management Division. Uniting representatives from Headquarters and each Center, provides a unique capability to network, share best practices, explain policies and enhance mission support. This conference provides an in-depth discussion on program development and timely exchange of ideas on environmental- and sustainability-related topics and issues. This conference gives individual attendees meaningful opportunities for training, exposure to gain a broader perspective of the agency's mission in general and of the Office of Strategic Infrastructure, and an opportunity to visit a Center and understand its unique mission and technical capabilities.</p>					

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
3rd International A-Train Symposium 2017	Pasadena, CA	4/19/2017	4/21/2017	\$ 183,498	109
<p>Web site Link: https://espo.nasa.gov/a-train_2017/content/A-Train_2017_A-Train_Overview</p> <p>Purpose: The A-Train Symposium provides a forum to exchange information on the latest scientific advancements using multi-sensor measurements from the international A-Train satellite constellation as well as to highlight strategies for fusing them. The Symposium provides a localized effort to exchange research from the last ten years of A-Train satellite operation. The event is structured along four themes: atmospheric composition and chemistry, aerosols, clouds, radiation, and the hydrological cycle, atmospheric, oceanic, and terrestrial components of the carbon cycle, and weather and other operational applications.</p>					

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
Human Capital Spring Forum - 2017	Potomac, MD	5/14/2017	5/19/2017	\$ 249,008	154
<p>Web site Link: www.nasa.gov</p> <p>Purpose: The Office of Human Capital Management is working towards implementation of the Human Capital Business Services Assessment (BSA) decisions. It is essential that attendees convene the parts of the Human Capital (HC) function that are most affected by those decisions (classification, staffing, OD) in order to train staff on the new ways of doing business in a consolidated environment. This face-to-face meeting serves as a training function for this community, as well as an opportunity for the HC leadership to plan for the next phases of HC consolidation and to develop plans in response to recent Administration directives concerning the federal workforce and performance management.</p>					

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
2017 SBIR/STTR Industry Day	Moffett Field, CA	6/25/2017	6/27/2017	\$ 105,974	41
<p>Web site Link: https://sbir.nasa.gov/events/sbir-industry-day</p> <p>Purpose: This Industry Outreach event provides NASA Mission Directorates an opportunity to communicate with the Small Business community, industry, and potential proposers to the SBIR/STTR program. This communication follows NASA's 2017 Request for Information (RFI) in which feedback was captured and refined at this Industry day and ultimately incorporated into improving the program's 2018 Solicitation. Subtopics and focus areas will be streamlined to maximize cross pollination of needs between the Mission Directorates and Centers as well simplify processes for both the program and proposers. The event also aims to increase the quality, number, and relevance of proposals submitted by SBCs.</p>					

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
4th Annual NASA Exploration Science Forum 2017	Mountain View, CA	7/182017	7/21/2017	\$ 131,963	91
<p>Web site Link: http://nesf2017.arc.nasa.gov/</p> <p>Purpose: The Exploration Science Forum advances the goals of NASA and of NASA's institute SSERVI by bringing together top researchers from around the world to focus on the scientific questions and engineering endeavors that are required for human exploration beyond low-Earth orbit. Interdisciplinary collaborations are fostered through dissemination of scientific results, focus group activities, demonstrations of exploration tools and databases, as well as student poster competitions and speaking opportunities.</p>					

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
The Thermal and Fluids Analysis Workshop (TFAWS)	Huntsville, AL	8/21/2017	8/25/2017	\$ 127,115	127
<p>Web site Link: https://tfaws.nasa.gov/</p> <p>Purpose: The Thermal and Fluid Analysis Workshop (TFAWS) is an annual NASA-sponsored training and professional development workshop designed to encourage knowledge sharing, professional development, and networking throughout the thermal and fluids engineering community within NASA and the aerospace community at large. TFAWS features paper sessions, short courses, panel discussions, speakers, and software training. It encompasses all three sponsoring NESC technical disciplines (Passive Thermal, Active Thermal, and Aerosciences), and it is well-suited to everyone in the community, including experienced engineers, new hires, and students.</p>					

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
2017 NASA Cost & Schedule Symposium	Washington, DC	8/29/2017	8/31/2017	\$ 102,418	111
<p>Web site Link: https://www.nasa.gov/offices/ocfo/cost_symposium</p> <p>Purpose: The NASA Cost & Schedule Symposium is essential to maintaining and improving the estimating and analysis functions across the NASA community. The NASA cost and schedule analysis community includes all Centers as well as HQ and represents an essential function to the agency. The NASA Cost and Schedule Symposium advances NASA's core mission by providing a professional forum for agency analysts to present and learn results of cost research, and participate in training sessions on methods and tools to support important agency initiatives such as conducting Joint Confidence Level (JCL) analyses.</p>					

Conference	Location	Start Date	End Date	Total Cost	NASA Paid Attendees
Disaster Risk Reduction Across the Americas	Buenos Aires, Argentina	9/4/2017	9/8/2017	\$ 345,163	30
<p>Web site Link: https://disasters.nasa.gov/meetings/disaster</p> <p>Purpose: The Disaster Risk Reduction Across the Americas summit is includes essential scheduled business and planning/review meetings with colleagues in Earth Observations from Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and Group on Earth Observations (GEO) as well as users of our collective data, tools, science and technology for research and applications central to the mission of NASA and the Science Mission Directorate (SMD). This NASA-led activity is a U.S. National Platform contribution to the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction Sendai Framework.</p>					