

Foreword

These are exciting times to be in the business of human space exploration. The Shuttle, the most capable spacecraft ever flown, is making it possible for us to complete the International Space Station and expand its scientific capabilities. Through the science and research conducted on the ground to support these programs, and conducted in space by astronauts, we have made tremendous advances in engineering, technology, computers, medical sciences, and planetary and astromaterials sciences. At the same time, the many talented engineers and scientists at NASA Johnson Space Center are designing the spacecraft that will allow humans to live and work on the lunar surface.

This report highlights just some of the scientific and technological innovations from the space program. I believe this information will spark new ideas, encourage students to pursue technical careers, and serve as a solid foundation for constructive dialogues with universities, nonprofit research organizations, industry, and other federal agencies.

As we continue our journey of human exploration, it is my hope that we will build strong, lasting research partnerships that will help us better understand our universe that will allow us to meet the nation's goal of human exploration of Mars.

Michael L. Coats
Center Director

