I'm NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, wishing you all the best on this Small Business Week 2015.

I hope you'll join me in offering a special congratulations to the men and women of A.I. Solutions, Incorporated and Advanced Aerospace Solutions – NASA's prime contractor and subcontractor of the year.

Small businesses are the heart and soul of the American economy. They put people to work.

They provide the goods and services on which we all rely and quite often, they help define the character of their city or town.

What's more, they employee nearly one in every two private sector workers ...and in recent years, they've created nearly two out of every three new jobs.

At NASA, were the first agency in the federal government to set a goal for awarding sub contracts to Historically Black Colleges and Universities and minority serving institutions.

And we continue to look for ways to leverage
the power of our nation’s diversity by utilizing

small businesses.

Of course, one of the most important ways that NASA supports small businesses is by helping create them. NASA-derived technologies have led to the creation of small business like Northern Power Systems, which puts people to work building wind turbines that could be used on Mars … and Ekotrope, which has a software package for designing energy efficient homes.

So as we work to expand humanity’s reach in space and to strengthen America’s leadership here on Earth, small businesses play an important and essential role. They will continue to play an important role as we push out further into the solar system and beyond. Our journey of discovery has only just begun.

Thank you very much.