



Charles Bolden
NASA Administrator

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00:00:11,280 --> 00:00:14,580

Hello, I'm NASA Administrator Charles Bolden.

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This week, NASA is very proud to join with President Obama, the Small Business Administration

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00:00:20,520 --> 00:00:24,580

and the American people to celebrate Small Business Week.

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Small Businesses are the backbone of the American economy.

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They employ about half of all private sector employees.

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They account for 42% of the total U.S. private payroll.

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And they are incubators of innovation, developing new products and new ways of solving problems

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that are benefiting communities and maintaining America's leadership in the global economy.

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I am especially proud of NASA's record of support for the small businesses that are

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essential to our achievements in space and here on Earth.

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The agency has received an "A" on the SBA scorecard which measures how well federal

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agencies reach their small business prime and subcontracting goals.

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In fiscal year 2013, NASA awarded over \$2.7 billion directly to small businesses and we

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exceeded our goal by more than 4% with 21.4% of all of our prime contracts going to small

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businesses.

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NASA has increased its small business prime awards despite decreasing budgets for the

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past four years.

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But it's not all about money.

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We know that many small businesses, especially those seeking to do business with the federal

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government, need counseling and mentoring in order to effectively compete and take advantage

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of all the opportunities available to them.

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That is the purpose of NASA's Mentor-Protégé Program.

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This program encourages NASA prime contractors to assist eligible small business protégés

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so that they can become a part of the competitive base of contractors that are helping shape

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00:02:01,350 --> 00:02:06,820
the future of space exploration, scientific and technological discovery, and aeronautics

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00:02:06,820 --> 00:02:07,960
research.

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NASA is ushering in a new era of space exploration.

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00:02:12,010 --> 00:02:16,210
We are making strides towards our goal of a human mission to Mars.

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We are planning a mission to capture and redirect an asteroid so our astronauts can visit and

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00:02:20,860 --> 00:02:22,680
bring back samples.

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00:02:22,680 --> 00:02:28,170
We are working with commercial space companies to return cargo and human launches to American

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00:02:28,170 --> 00:02:29,260
soil.

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00:02:29,260 --> 00:02:33,760
And we are building the vehicles and perfecting
the technologies to enable us to send our

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00:02:33,760 --> 00:02:39,290
astronauts farther into space than anyone
has ever gone before.

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00:02:39,290 --> 00:02:43,570
Small Businesses are essential to everything
we do.

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00:02:43,570 --> 00:02:48,849
I want to thank the small business community
for the indispensable role you play, not only

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00:02:48,849 --> 00:02:51,920
here at NASA, but throughout the nation.

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00:02:51,920 --> 00:02:56,870
And I want to thank NASA's Office of Small
Business Programs and the Small Business Specialists

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at each of our centers for your outstanding
achievements and commitment to the small business

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mission.