

GOOD NEWS**JSC EARNS TOP QUALITY MANAGEMENT RATING**

Johnson Space Center has another first to add to its accomplishments. JSC has been recommended for certification to the rigorous ISO 9001:2000 standard. This registration by the International Organization of Standards (ISO) recognizes the center's commitment to the highest quality in its management, as well as its technical endeavors.

"Our registration to the ISO 9001:2000 standard places JSC among the true leaders in quality management, not only within NASA, but throughout government and across the aerospace industry," said Lee Norbraten, the director of JSC's ISO 9000 office.

Registration of the center's Quality Management System (QMS) to the recently approved ISO 9001:2000 is the first for any federal installation. ISO 9001:2000 certification is highly prized by government and industry leaders because it is the internationally recognized standard for quality management systems.

This registration follows intensive preparation at JSC and a three-day, on-site inspection by independent auditors from National Quality Assurance, USA (NQA). The auditors visited the center March 19-21.

"This certification is important for JSC in its continuing effort to lead the way in management excellence, which will complement the technical excellence that is the trademark of the center," said Roy Estess, JCS acting director.

"This certification was accomplished through the dedicated efforts of everyone on

site. The QMS is an essential tool for continuous improvement and process efficiency, which will enable us to lead the development of human space flight technologies in the future."

Auditors from the NQA spent three days at JSC reviewing its implementation of the management principles contained in the ISO 9001:2000 standard. Following the review, the director for business development at NQA, Derek Coppinger, said, "Johnson Space Center is the pathfinder for many who will follow its efforts to achieve ISO 9000:2000 certification."

Johnson Space Center is the only federal site that is both ISO 9001:2000 certified and recognized as a Voluntary Protection Program "Star Site" by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. OSHA granted the center VPP Star status in May 1999. JSC received its initial certification to ISO 9001 in April 1998, establishing itself as the first NASA field center to be so registered at the time.

"This success rests on a large team of managers and implementers from every JSC organization, who accomplished this milestone during a period of peak mission support activity," Norbraten said.

NASA was the first federal agency to require and achieve ISO 9001 registration for all of its facilities.

"We are now in firm possession of a management tool that, if used well, can improve even more the overall effectiveness of JSC," Norbraten said. ■

NASA PROCUREMENT ANALYST OF THE YEAR

George E. Huff was recently named NASA Procurement Analyst of the Year.

"Often, it is cliché to say that an individual is irreplaceable; however, sometimes you have those people that are simply essential to the success of an organization," said Randy Gish, JSC Director of Procurement. "For the JSC procurement organization, Mr. Huff is one of those individuals."

Since 1980, Huff has been a procurement analyst supporting the entire procurement organization at JSC. His extensive experience as a contract specialist and contracting officer prior to his tenure in the Procurement Policy and Business System office has enabled him to provide "soup-to-nuts" guidance and advice to literally hundreds of contractor professionals at all JSC levels.

Huff developed the JSC Greenbook, which is the document generation manual for creating solicitations and contracts at JSC. He is also responsible for generating and updating the multitude of other local procurement policy and guidance used at JSC.

For approximately 20 years, Huff has been the sole Terminating Contracting Officer at JSC. In that position he reviews and approves all JSC terminations, in conjunction with the JSC legal counsel.

When JSC awarded the closeout function to an 8(a) contractor, Huff assisted in the development of the statement of work. He was also the first closeout con-

tracting officer, responsible for approving all JSC contracts that were closed.

Huff has been instrumental in developing the self-assessment process at JSC. Utilizing the guide provided by NASA Headquarters, he designed a semi-annual assessment that is very effective and can be accomplished in an expedited fashion.

Every six months, Huff identifies the contracts and purchase orders to be assessed. Each procurement office is notified and provided with the portion of the self-assessment guide that is applicable. The results of the survey are compiled and forwarded to Headquarters.

Huff has been a key player in the agency in the development and implementation of the online Request for Quote System.

This electronic solicitation system reduces procurement time for commercial item buys by eliminating the need for paper copies of the solicitation and eliminating manually signed documents by contractors. Huff has also done an outstanding job as one of JSC's two members of NASA Acquisition Internet Service working group.

In addition, Huff has been the corporate memory of the JSC Procurement Organization for many years. An outstanding professional, Huff brings a great depth of expertise to the organization. He has distinguished himself through many years of service and is particularly deserving of this recognition.

"He is, for us, professionalism at its finest," Gish said. ■

Diagnosis: Excellent condition

Kelsey-Seybold Clinic Laboratory receives accreditation with distinction

The NASA/JSC Kelsey-Seybold Clinic Laboratory has been awarded an accreditation by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) based on the results of a recent on-site inspection.

The laboratory not only received the continuing accreditation but also was awarded the accreditation with distinction, said Reta Warren, a medical technologist with the laboratory.

Alfred Rossum, MD, the laboratory director and project manager, was advised of this national recognition and congratulated for the "excellence of the services being provided," according to a release from CAP.

The NASA/JSC Kelsey-Seybold Clinic Laboratory, located in Building 8, is one of the more than 6,000 CAP accredited laboratories nationwide. The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the early 1960s, is recognized by the federal government as being equal to or more stringent than the government's own inspection program.

Inspectors examine the records and quality control of the laboratory for the preceding two years, as well as the education and qualifications of the total staff, the adequacy of the facilities, the equipment,

laboratory safety and laboratory management to determine how well the laboratory is serving the patient.

The Johnson Space Center Laboratory serves all the Civil Service employees, Warren said, by performing laboratory work as part of the annual physical offered during or before their birthday month each year. Contractors with job-related physicals also must have laboratory work performed with their physical.

"The laboratory testing is an integral part of helping the employees maintain a healthy lifestyle and helps the physician with diagnosis and monitoring of any health problems," Warren said.

"Since any on-site employee has the availability of using the clinic for emergen-

cies or illnesses, the laboratory can perform certain tests immediately to aid the physicians and help get the employees back to work or to the appropriate medical facility as soon as possible."

Upon completion of the CAP inspection and approval for accreditation, Warren said the Department of Health and Human Services Health Care Financing Administration also issued a certificate of accreditation to the laboratory for a period of two years. ■

This (accreditation with honors) is only awarded to those laboratories showing exceptional performance in all areas.

— Reta Warren
Medical Technologist JSC/NASA
Kelsey-Seybold Clinic Laboratory

Just *the* FACTS**NANOSPACE 2001 Conference**

The International Conference on Integrated Nano/ Microtechnology for Space and Biomedical Applications was held March 13-16 at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston.

More than 130 organizations from across the United States participated, along with The Institute for Advanced Interdisciplinary Research, the Houston Technology Center, Rice University and the National Space Biomedical Research Institute.

The event focused on today's Nanoscale Technologies as they apply to space, biomedicine and technology commercialization.

More than 300 scientists and researchers shared information and ideas in the field of Nano/Microtechnology—including how to manufacture and test the microscopic nanotubes and other structures and how they can be used.

People in the medical and scientific community, industry and commercial entities, government agencies and laboratories, and academia were in attendance.

Nobel Prize winner Dr. Richard Smalley of Rice University served as the keynote speaker. Dr. Smalley is noted for the discovery of the Bucky Ball during

the mid-1980s that led to a new class of carbon-based materials known as nanotubes.

Two new tracts were featured this year. In addition to space applications and biomedical uses of nanotechnology, the conference focused on analysis and risk assessment and technology commercialization. The commercialization discussion examined how this new technology can benefit not just the aerospace industry, but the technical community in general, from universities to private industries.

Here are some interesting facts :

- Advanced materials such as nanotube composites can replace current carbon fiber composites—and instead of being microns in diameter, they are only a nanometer!
- Nanotubes have 10-15 times more strength than carbon fibers used on the X-38. Eventually, space vehicles may be composed of materials beyond composites such as crystalline forms of nanotubes.
- More NASA centers are starting to work with nanotechnology, specifically with nanotube applications. JSC supports composite materials, energy storage, biomedical and life support applications of these technologies.
- More information can be found at the following Websites:

<https://www.nanospace.systems.org>
<http://mmpdpublic.jsc.nasa.gov/jscnano/>



William Holmes and Brad Files, of the materials branch, mix samples to make nanotube composites.