

NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

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For Immediate Release

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The Congress on Friday acted to support the President's recommendations on the National Aerospace Plane program by approving a total of \$254 million to fund NASP activities in FY 90. Friday's Congressional action signals a consensus between the Congress and the Administration on NASP. It reaffirms the national commitment to continue this vital technology effort which benefits the civil, commercial and national security interests of the nation.

In July, the National Space Council, led by Vice President Quayle, completed a comprehensive review of the NASP program. Based on the results of this review, the Council recommended, and the President approved, continuation of the NASP program as a high priority national effort to develop and demonstrate hypersonic technologies with the ultimate goal of single-stage-to-orbit. To implement this policy, the Council proposed a plan which focused on high priority research, as opposed to operational, objectives and which minimized technical and cost uncertainty. The plan extended technology development until 1993, retained an experimental flight vehicle focus and retained a joint program management structure with participation by both the Department of Defense and NASA.

By endorsing the Council's recommendations the Congress has signaled a long term intention to support the NASP program which will promote competitiveness, foster U.S. space leadership and provide the technical basis for greatly expanded access to space in the 21st century.