

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
2101 NASA Road 1
Houston, Texas 77058-3696

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Reply to Attn of: EA-05-014

Dott. Fabio M. Bracciaferri
Agenzia Spaziale Italiana
Viale Liegi, 26
00198 Rome, Italy

Ing. Salvatore Pignataro
Agenzia Spaziale Italiana
Viale Liegi, 26
00198 Rome, Italy

Dear Dott. Bracciaferri and Pignataro,

At all levels throughout the NASA organization, we recognize the incredible significance of the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS) flight experiment and the critical scientific discoveries it will likely unveil. At the highest levels throughout NASA, we are waiting with fascination at the mysteries it may help us unfold, and the impact its discoveries may have on our future.

The international collaboration that has been assembled to develop this amazing experiment has no equal at this time. The collaborative effort contributing to this grand experiment includes more countries than the collaboration representing the International Space Station.

The AMS experiment has been reviewed extensively by government and funding agencies from all the participating countries. AMS experiment has enjoyed unparalleled support not only because AMS science goals, the success of AMS-01 but most importantly because of the outstanding record of the Collaboration which has worked together for many decades always supported by Italian government (ASI and INFN) and US government (NASA and DOE).

The AMS Crew Operation Post (ACOP) proposed by ASI is one of the most important elements for the AMS experiment; it will enable us to collect and to store the enormous amount of data.

The new NASA mission on exploration requires we use ACOP extensively on ISS beyond the original approved mission of AMS. With ACOP we will be able to collect and analyze galactic cosmic rays spectra for all the nuclei up to high energy and as function of time. This information is vital for radiation safety to ensure proper protection for astronauts on long duration interplanetary flight.

We, in the NASA AMS Project Office, clearly recognize the pioneering effort and the outstanding contribution of the Italian Space Agency. The Project Management Office of NASA recognizes the important contribution ASI has made to the AMS experiment.

The Johnson Space Center AMS Program Office strongly supports this AMS Collaboration by flying this important payload including the ACOP that will serve to protect and archive its extremely valuable data.

I look forward to work closely with you to ensure the effort of Italian Space Agency, particularly on ACOP is recognized by NASA and by the international space community.

Sincerely,

Stephen Porter
AMS Project Manager
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center