

Does the Future of the Human Species in Space Critically Depend upon NASA and the United States?: A Followup to the OSTP Call of October 14, 2014

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Douglas Thorpe's piece on "The US Manned Space Program and a New Tomorrow" responding to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Call of October 14, 2014 relating to "Bootstrapping a Solar System Civilization" is an energetic restatement of the history of why the U.S. became a leader in the manned space program. But right at the outset of his dissertation, Thorpe emphasizes the observation attributed to Einstein, i.e., "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results". While Einstein would appear guilty himself "over and over" of unnecessary repetition, the quote lays the foundation for the very contradiction inherent in Thorpe's own piece; and also that which appeared in John Robinson's earlier contribution to this journal. Both assert at the outset that the critical objective of the manned space program is survival of the human species. Unfortunately, the global importance of survival of the human species, and not just those representatives residing and working in the United States, is ignored. Both authors immediately continue by emphasizing the necessity of revitalizing the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration with more funding and updated legislation to accomplish this undertaking. For them, the objective seems to be one of re-establishing the U.S. lead in these activities. The U.S. is not, and cannot be, solely responsible for saving the genome of *Homo sapiens sapiens*, of so-called modern humans, and their transhuman and biotechnologically integrated post human descendants. Given the current and projected states of the world economy, as well as the consequences of the human population dynamic run amok and an ongoing communications technology creating new and apparently largely governmentally uncontrollable worlds and alliances between and among individuals and their own discrete alliances, a new and truly "global" structure needs to be created. And it must be designed to focus solely upon enhancing, facilitating, and financing the movement of humankind into space for permanent habitation. Relatively speaking, globally sponsored humankind space migration for species survival must respond to the traditionally focusing catalyst that "time is

of the essence". Such a global undertaking must be a departure from the parochial idea of reinvigorating the "old" NASA to enhance the survival of the human genome and its evolving descendants. The characteristics of what constitutes national sovereignty have changed dramatically, and even international consortia focus primarily, if not solely, on Earth indigent politics. A new entity, perhaps in the form of a "globally" (not just "internationally") sponsored quasi-sovereign and independent cybernation, might be formed to focus solely on enhancing and facilitating humankind migration and permanent off-Earth habitation. The operative and management characteristics might be based on private entrepreneurial principles, of which citizens and industries in the United States and the Free World generally are particularly well versed. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has served its purpose. Now show your experience and wisdom and ... move on!

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