



# THE INNOVATION CATALYST

## MARCH 2021

### TAKE ACTION — YOUR ROLE IN SOFTWARE RELEASE

Compared to hardware development, software may seem nebulous and intangible. But your work is still considered intellectual property, even if it consists of code instead of circuits and wires. NASA wants to protect your software developments while also [making them available](#) to collaborators who may benefit from using them.

As a result, software developed at NASA must go through the software release process before it can be shared. The Strategic Partnerships Office (SPO) plays a role in facilitating this process, but SPO can't do it without you! At various steps throughout software release, you can take action to move your software along and expedite its journey as much as possible. You can learn more about the [entire software release process here](#), but read on for ways you can help SPO get your software where it needs to go.

#### 1. SUBMIT YOUR NTR TO THE BALL ROLLING

Software developers must submit a [New Technology Report](#) (NTR) before any part of the software release process can proceed. In order for you to select your software package from NASA's Software Release System, it must have a corresponding NTR. For questions about your NTR, please contact Scott Leonardi, [robert.s.leonardi@nasa.gov](mailto:robert.s.leonardi@nasa.gov).

#### 2. KNOW YOUR GOALS FROM THE BEGINNING

Familiarize yourself with the five software release levels and decide early on which level you wish to select. Each level serves a specific purpose and audience, which can speed up or slow down the release of your software. If you decide to change levels midway through the process, you might need to start from the beginning, so be as deliberate as you can when selecting a release level.

#### 3. CHECK AND DOUBLE-CHECK THE SOFTWARE RELEASE SYSTEM

Once SPO has processed your NTR, you're ready to access the [Software Release System](#), your portal to all things software release. The Software Release Request Application (SRRA) needs your input, and it will prompt you to answer a variety of questions about your contact information, software classification, and third-party licenses, if applicable. As the software developer, you are responsible for putting this information into the system and verifying its accuracy as much as possible. Any errors at this stage can cause delays later in the process.

#### 4. GET TO KNOW YOUR REVIEWERS

It's a basic fact of life – the more reviewers you involve, the longer the review will take. Software release requires five separate reviews with offices across NASA to ensure compliance and address any potential legal issues. Fortunately, these reviews happen in parallel, but depending on the specifics of your case, there's a high level of variability in terms of how long the reviews actually take. You can reach out to your reviewers at any point in the process (see next page for contact info) to follow up on your application and check on its progress.

Due to the high level of interest, we plan to include a series of articles on software release in future issues of *The Innovation Catalyst*.

If you have a specific question about the software release process, please let us know by contacting [amy.k.klarup@nasa.gov](mailto:amy.k.klarup@nasa.gov)!

# SOFTWARE RELEASE POINTS OF CONTACT

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

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NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE REPRESENT  
BLACK LIVES MATTER EQUALITY CIVIL  
FREEDOM IMMIGRATION DREAMERS E  
F SPEECH **DIVERSITY** LAND OF THE FRE  
INDEPENDENCE FLAG CIVIL RIGHTS DISCRIMI  
GOVERNMENT STRENGTH **HIGHLIGHT** AFF

# HERITAGE

# DIVERSITY

# WOMEN

# HISTORY

# CELEBRATION

Women have accomplished amazing things at NASA, and **March** honors their struggles and triumphs by celebrating Women's History Month. We strongly encourage all innovators to participate in the Goddard Equal Opportunity Programs Office's "I'm Every Woman" campaign, which will highlight Goddard's women and their allies as part of Women's History Month celebrations. You can nominate your colleagues by Friday, March 26, by clicking [here](#). Please see the list below for more events and ways to participate, and keep an eye on Dateline for links:

**MONDAY, MARCH 29 – "DO YOU HEAR US?"**  
Sponsored by the Women's Advisory Committee (WAC) and the Goddard African American Advisory Committee, this listening session will include women and allies sharing their personal stories and concerns that affect their lives, homes, workplaces, and communities.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31 – CELEBRATING WOMEN THROUGH THE DECADES:** WAC and Goddard's DJ Scientific will celebrate women's contributions to music through the decades.

**PROMOTIONAL VIDEO FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH:**  
<https://nasatube.nasa.gov/Watch=9LclMu>

**LEARN MORE ABOUT NASA'S UNITY CAMPAIGN:**  
<https://www.nasa.gov/offices/odeo/nasaunity>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming events and important updates for Goddard innovators

## THE INNOVATOR HOUR

### NEXT SPO INNOVATOR HOUR SLATED FOR MARCH

"The Innovator Hour" is a new initiative from SPO to reach out to Goddard innovators who need dedicated one-on-one time with SPO representatives or technology and agreement managers. Have a question for SPO specific to your situation? You can now book time slots of 30-minute increments to meet with a SPO representative who will analyze your situation. Have a specific technology manager in mind? We'll get you connected and booked. Reserve your spot today! Please fill out [this form](#) to book an appointment.

This event will take place Wednesday, March 17, from 10 am to 12 pm.



### DON'T MISS COLLABLAB ON MARCH 17!

SPO's "CollabLab" series premieres in a virtual format on Wednesday, March 17, at 1 pm! The series celebrates Goddard's collaborations and technology transfer success stories, and the debut of the series features the unique collaboration between Nithin Abraham, a Goddard thermal coatings engineer, and Catharine Hawks, an objects conservator from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH).

## MAKE SPACE FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH: JOURNALING

In the Contamination and Coatings Engineering Branch (Code 546), Abraham specializes in the research and development of coatings technology and testing. Abraham and her team took part in an effort to study the efficacy of the patented Molecular Adsorber Coating (MAC), a sprayable porous substance made of zeolite that works to trap and contain contaminants. While the technology was developed in order to protect objects and components of spacecraft, Hawks saw its potential effectiveness in her own field of museum conservation.

[Click the link here to attend](#), and please contact Valeriya Nakshun, [valeriya.a.nakshun@nasa.gov](mailto:valeriya.a.nakshun@nasa.gov), with any questions about this series or future events!



### GODDARD SMALLSAT TEAM WEBINAR SERIES

The Small Satellite Office at Goddard will host a series of webinars on SmallSat-related technologies and software packages available for commercial use. [Click here](#) for registration, and stay tuned for future webinar sessions!

Between New Technology Reports, journal articles, and emails, you may find it stressful to even think about writing anything else. However, you might want to consider adding one form of writing to your weekly to-do list: journaling. According to the University of Rochester Medical Center, journaling can help you manage anxiety, reduce stress, and cope with depression.

Just a few minutes of journaling a day gives you the opportunity to sort through your thoughts and feelings in a manageable, structured way. Over time, you might recognize patterns in your thinking or stressful situations that make you feel worse. By identifying these occasions and figuring out ways to mitigate them, you can explore approaches to improve your mental wellbeing.

# TECH TRIVIA TRANSFER

How much do you know about NASA technology transfer? Find out with our monthly quiz!



Who is responsible for choosing a software release level?

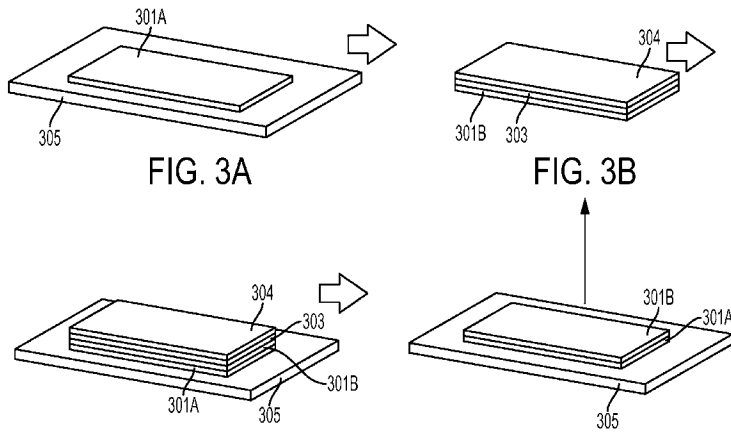
A. Strategic Partnerships Office

B. Interested parties external to NASA

C. Office of General Counsel

D. Software developers

## GUESS THE PATENT DRAWING



**True or False:** You must submit an NTR before you can begin the software release process

A. True

B. False



Who needs to review your Software Release Request Application?

A. IT Security Office

B. Office of General Counsel

C. Export Control office

D. All of the above

**CLUE ONE:** The technology introduces an improved method for transferring a one-atom-thick layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice to suitable optical substrates.

**CLUE TWO:** This technology was invented by Mahmooda Sultana, Mary Li, and Anthony Yu.

**CLUE THREE:** The method has various applications for devices related to photonics.

### + WANT TO KNOW THE ANSWERS?

[Click here](#) for Tech Transfer Trivia and [here](#) for the Guess The Patent Drawing.

# GET TO KNOW SPO **SCOTT LEONARDI**



**POSITION: Senior Database Specialist**

**YEARS WITH SPO: 11 years**

## **ROLE AT SPO**

Over the years I've played many different roles in our office, from working on various publications and writing press releases to coordinating different meetings and events and working with inventors to help them get their New Technology Reports (NTRs) completed and submitted. I've done a little bit of everything. Thanks to all of the different parts I've played, I think it's given me a unique skill set and perspective of how our office operates and the ability to fill certain gaps when needed.

## **FAVORITE PART OF WORKDAY**

Pre-pandemic my favorite part of the workday was getting into the office early. The quiet time that allows you to get things done before everyone else arrives and the hustle and bustle of the workday gets going. Now my favorite part of the workday is getting to enjoy little breaks with my family throughout the day.

## **STAR WARS OR STAR TREK**

I like them both, but if I had to pick one it would be Star Trek. I loved the original series as a kid and I've really been enjoying Star Trek: Discovery and Lower Decks as well. Picard was great and I'm also looking forward to Star Trek: Strange New Worlds.

## **VIDEO GAMES OR BOARD GAMES**

Definitely video games. My parents got me an Atari 2600 back in 1978 and I've been hooked on video game consoles ever since. From Intellivision and Colecovision to PlayStation and Switch, I've been lucky enough to own lots of different systems at one time or another. I'm proud to say that I've passed the video game bug on to my kids as well. They're both big gamers with bad Minecraft and Roblox addictions and have even started creating and designing their own PC games too.

## **BIGGEST PET PEEVE**

Being asked what my biggest pet peeve is. Just kidding! It really gets my goat when you're excitedly waiting on a package to be delivered on a "guaranteed delivery date," but then the package doesn't arrive on the day that it's supposed to. What's that about?

## **FAVORITE QUOTE OR JOKE**

"They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist..." Last words of Major General John Sedgewick at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House.

## **MOST OBSCURE TALENT**

I'm a big music fan and I especially like music from the '70s and '80s. I'm pretty sure my wife wouldn't call this a talent (she'd probably call it more of an annoyance than a talent) but I can give random, obscure facts about bands or artists and their songs that no one really wants to know. A lot of this useless information I've picked up from years of listening to old episodes of Casey Kasem's American Top 40 radio shows. For instance, did you know that Neil Diamond once considered changing his name to Ice Cherry? You're welcome.

*Photo courtesy Scott Leonardi, circa 1975*

# TECH MANAGER SPOTLIGHT **ERIC MCGILL**

## **WHAT'S ONE REALLY IMPORTANT THING THE GODDARD COMMUNITY SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER?**

Technology transfer is exciting and vital to the U.S. in maintaining its technological edge for many areas. Many of the major technology platforms that are ubiquitous today, like the internet and mobile phone camera technology, started out as government inventions. A not-so-well-known example of a NASA technology creating a multi-billion dollar industry is NASTRAN, a finite element analysis (FEA) program that was originally developed for NASA in the late 1960s under government funding for the aerospace industry. The worldwide market for FEA products and services is projected to reach \$3.06 billion by 2025.

## **WHAT PAST ACHIEVEMENT MADE YOU MOST PROUD?**

I am very happy to have significantly contributed to several banner years in licensing for the Strategic Partnerships Office (SPO). However, I am most gratified when we are able to communicate the value of our program to the technology developers at Goddard, who then become champions for their innovations to serve agency missions and fill industrial gaps.


## **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO INNOVATORS WHO ARE LOOKING TO ENGAGE WITH OUR OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME?**

Our door is always open, and we welcome any question at any time! Our marketing team has also recently launched the "Innovator Hour," which is a great way to sign up to discuss any questions you may have about the Technology Transfer program and the other responsibilities that SPO has, such as Partnerships and SBIR/STTR.

## **CAN YOU GIVE US SOME INSIGHTS ON A FEW RECENT PROJECTS YOU'VE WORKED ON? WHAT'S NOTABLE ABOUT THEM?**

A couple come to mind. First is the licensing of a SmallSat technology, DANY, to Thermal Management Technologies of Logan, Utah. They not only made that product commercially available quickly by working with our developers, but later came back and licensed our Thermal Louvers technology. Repeat customers in technology transfer say a lot about the working relationship and the level of satisfaction for all the parties involved. DANY was also nominated for NASA Invention of the Year in 2020.

Next is the NASA Commercialization Training Camp, where we introduce NASA technologies for the purpose of starting and growing businesses. The program has yielded several licenses since its inception.



**CODES: 420, 470, 500, 540,  
550 + 610**

**HOW MANY YEARS THEY'VE  
BEEN AT SPO: 5 years**

Photo Credit: NASA/Samantha Kilgore

