SCIENCE

The bill provides $4,503,019,000 for science, an increase of $61,500,000 over the budget request. The amount provided reflects an unallocated adjustment of $70,886,000 and reflects NASA's Earth science priorities carried into fiscal year 2009 from fiscal year 2008. NASA shall within 30 days of enactment of this Act provide to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations its plan of operations and upcoming servicing of the Hubble Space Telescope, the National Research Council's recent report Launching Science: Science, technology, policy and decision making, a Plan for a U.S. National Land Imaging Program. This plan is due to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than August 31, 2009.

Earth science program.—The bill provides $500,000,000 for aeronautics research. The research and development activities undertaken with the augmentation shall not be based on the determination that the investment in an activity would result in a useable or product based only on one year's funding. Accordingly, the Aeronautics Research Mission Director shall be directed to work to achieve a launch no later than 2015.

EXPLORATION

The bill provides $500,000,000 for exploration for fiscal year 2009, $5,000,000 over the budget request. The amount provided includes an unallocated adjustment of $18,000,000. NASA shall within 30 days of enactment of this Act provide to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations its proposed distribution of the unallocated adjustment. In doing so, NASA shall identify offsets that do not result in delays or cancellations of missions in development or the cancellation of any selected projects, and shall not identify as offsets any increases provided above the requisites expressly provided by Congress.

Constellation systems.—The bill includes the budget request of $1,018,515,000 for Ares and $1,101,436,000 for Orion. Constellation systems program, heavy lift cargo vehicle.—The bill includes $23,000,000 for the Constellation program to support comprehensive requirements definition and research and development for a systems requirement review.