

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



April 9, 2008

Science Mission Directorate

Dr. Volker Bothmer
Solar Probe Science and
Technology Definition Team

Dear Dr. Bothmer:

I am writing to thank you for your valuable contributions to the recently completed Solar Probe also renamed as Solar Probe Plus Science and Technology Definition Team (SPPSTDT) for which you began your task almost four years ago. This was a difficult task carried out in two separate endeavors. You delivered a compelling first report to me almost three years ago. However, due to budgetary issues I was not able to implement the mission in its previous form. In fall of 2007 you were asked to provide a delta report to carry out the compelling science of the original Solar Probe mission under a reduced budget. You carried out this task in a very short period of time with the delivery of a new report which clearly describes the key science goals of this mission and presents a compelling case for it. With this report we have now completed definition of the final Solar Probe mission. It is only befitting that fifty years after Parker's theoretical prediction of the corona's supersonic expansion into interplanetary space as a "solar wind" that NASA's Solar Probe mission will explore this near Sun environment with direct, in-situ measurements.

The report that you helped execute clearly defines the scope of the required science as well as a conceptual mission implementation. This pre-publication report will be made immediately available electronically via the world-wide web and hard copies/CDs will be distributed when available to guide researchers in proposal preparation when we issue an Announcement of Opportunity for the Solar Probe mission at some point in the near future.

With the delivery of this report to NASA Headquarters, your work is now completed. Your participation in the SPSTDT required a commitment of four years, and we at NASA Headquarters as well as your colleagues in the science community sincerely appreciate your time and efforts. For my self, I would add, again, thank you for a job well done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard R. Fisher".

Richard R. Fisher
Director, Heliophysics Division
Science Mission Directorate