NASA Office of Inspector General
Open Recommendations as of September 15, 2026

The NASA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) makes recommendations to improve economy, efficiency, and effectiveness and to identify waste and mismanagement in NASA programs, projects, operations, and contractor activities. This report contains information about 103 recommendations that remained open as of September 15, 2026. Although NASA may have already taken steps to implement these recommendations, a recommendation is not considered closed until it has been fully implemented. Further, the status of open recommendations is subject to change as NASA continues its efforts to implement them, and we review those efforts. Therefore, some recommendations identified as open in this report may have subsequently been closed.

Row No.	Issue Date	Report Title	Report No.	Recommendation No.	Recommendation	Responsible Office
1	10/21/2019	Audit of NASA's Security Management	IG-20-001	5	Coordinate with the Office of General Counsel to standardize the carrying of firearms by NASA civil servants in an Agency-wide policy while also addressing the appropriate situations when NASA contractors may carry their government-issued weapons off NASA property.	Office of Protective Services
2	11/14/2019	NASA's Management of Crew Transportation to the International Space Station	IG-20-005	2	Correct identified safety-critical technical issues before the crewed test flights, including parachute and propulsion systems testing, to ensure sufficient safety margins exist.	Human Exploration and Operations
3	3/3/2020	Audit of NASA's Management of the Distributed Active Archive Data Centers	IG-20-011	1	Complete an independent analysis to determine the long-term financial sustainability of supporting the cloud migration and operation while also maintaining the current DAAC footprint.	Science
4	7/16/2020	Audit of NASA's Management of the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle	IG-20-018	2	Adjust the production schedules for Artemis 4 and 5 to better align with the successful demonstration of Artemis 2 to reduce schedule delays associated with potential rework.	Human Exploration and Operations
5	11/30/2021	NASA's Utilization, Management, and Commercialization of Low Earth Orbit	IG-22-005	1	Ensure the risks associated with cracks and leaks in the Service Module Transfer Tunnel are identified and mitigated prior to agreeing to an ISS life extension.	Human Exploration and Operations
6	8/4/2022	Ames Lease Management Practices	IG-22-015	9	Conduct a Center-wide security vulnerability risk assessment, including the districts outside Ames Campus, to ensure compliance with federal and NASA requirements.	Office of Protective Services
7	8/4/2022	Ames Lease Management Practices	IG-22-015	10	Identify and implement mitigation strategies and resource requirements to address the security vulnerability assessment risks.	Office of Protective Services
8	10/5/2022	Audit of NASA's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act for Fiscal Year 2022	IG-23-001	3	Ensure the implementation plan for the Geospatial Data Strategy contains detailed action items and milestones, including those for developing a complete and accurate inventory of the Agency's geospatial data.	Chief Information Officer
9	10/5/2022	Audit of NASA's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act for Fiscal Year 2022	IG-23-001	4	Ensure continued coordination with NARA to establish the appropriate level of scientific data for inclusion in NARA-approved records schedules.	Chief Information Officer
10	1/12/2023	Audit of NASA's Software Asset Management	IG-23-008	2	Implement a single Software Asset Management tool across the Agency.	Chief Information Officer
11	3/20/2023	NASA's Management of Radioisotope Power Systems (RPS) Program	IG-23-010	9	Reevaluate the need and if appropriate reauthorize the organizational position of the Nuclear Power and Propulsion System Capability Leadership Team through the appropriate Mission Directorate and provide the Team responsibility for monitoring and advocating strategic nuclear power coordination across NASA.	Space Technology
12	7/12/2023	Audit of NASA's Deep Space Network	IG-23-016	1	Explore more efficient options for DSN scheduling, such as maintaining a list of DSN users by priority that is updated in real-time and accessible to all users.	Space Operations
13	7/12/2023	Audit of NASA's Deep Space Network	IG-23-016	2	Ensure completion of the DAEP's remaining antennas and transmitters and finalize requirements for the LEGS project.	Space Operations

14	7/12/2023	Audit of NASA's Deep Space Network	IG-23-016	3	Finalize international agreements, obtain appropriate clearances for installing the remaining 80 kW transmitters, and establish mechanisms to allow for greater oversight of DAEP project sites.	Space Operations
15	8/17/2023	Evaluation of NASA's Information Security Program under FISMA for FY 2023	IG-23-017	20	Continue efforts to prioritize projects that address the complexities required across EL tiers to meet the intermediate (EL2) maturity level in accordance with OMB M-21-31.	Chief Information Officer
16	9/5/2023	Management of NASA's Earth System Science Pathfinder Program	IG-23-018	7	Develop formal and clear guidance on the roles, responsibilities, and expectations for the inclusion of applications within Earth Venture Class projects.	Science
17	9/5/2023	Management of NASA's Earth System Science Pathfinder Program	IG-23-018	2	Reexamine selection process to ensure PIs or their team have sufficient experience, including project management, and the ability to dedicate necessary resources to effectively manage ESSP projects.	Science
18	9/5/2023	Management of NASA's Earth System Science Pathfinder Program	IG-23-018	8	Develop a methodology for funding applications in Earth Venture Class projects.	Science
19	10/12/2023	Artemis IV and Beyond - EPOC/Block 1B	IG-24-001	1	Establish achievable cost-saving metrics beginning with Artemis IV SLS elements and production contracts.	Human Exploration and Operations
20	10/12/2023	Artemis IV and Beyond - EPOC/Block 1B	IG-24-001	4	Conduct a detailed review of all contractor-submitted documents to ensure the government's rights to data and processes are not unnecessarily transferred to the contractor.	Human Exploration and Operations
21	10/12/2023	Artemis IV and Beyond - EPOC/Block 1B	IG-24-001	5	Include contract flexibility on future SLS acquisitions that will allow NASA to pivot to other commercial alternatives.	Human Exploration and Operations
22	10/12/2023	Artemis IV and Beyond - EPOC/Block 1B	IG-24-001	2	Transition the core stage and Exploration Upper Stage contracts to fixed-price contracts with a per mission price to codify the actual costs.	Human Exploration and Operations
23	10/12/2023	Artemis IV and Beyond - EPOC/Block 1B	IG-24-001	3	Increase the percentage of cost as a factor when conducting contractor evaluations for award fee purposes.	Human Exploration and Operations
24	10/19/2023	NASA's Management of the Artemis Program's Supply Chain	IG-24-003	6	Incorporate a representative from the Logistics Management Division into each Artemis-related program and project at appropriate milestones.	Exploration Systems Development
25	2/28/2024	Audit of Mars Sample Return Program	IG-24-008	2	Ensure the life-cycle cost and schedule estimates properly incorporate MSR Program complexity and performance as factors and do not only focus on external cost growth impacts and ongoing design issues.	Science
26	2/28/2024	Audit of Mars Sample Return Program	IG-24-008	3	Ensure the Agency Program Management Council is provided with a set of potential launch scenarios by KDP-C, including life-cycle cost and schedule estimates and an associated Joint Cost and Schedule Confidence Level for each.	Science
27	2/28/2024	Audit of Mars Sample Return Program	IG-24-008	1	Ensure the MSR Program establishes a stable CCRS design prior to establishing the life-cycle cost and schedule estimate at KDP-C, incorporating recommendations from the 2023 IRB as appropriate.	Science
28	3/14/2024	Audit of NASA's High-End Computing Program	IG-24-009	5	Evaluate cyber risks associated with HEC assets to determine oversight and monitoring requirements, establish risk appetite, and address control deficiencies. Consider using NASA's Splunk enterprise platform as a shared resource.	Chief Program Management Office

29	3/14/2024	Audit of NASA's High-End Computing Program	IG-24-009	6	Implement an HEC classification/category designation within Risk Information Security Compliance System for identifying HEC assets.	Chief Program Management Office
30	3/14/2024	Audit of NASA's High-End Computing Program	IG-24-009	8	Document data risk impact levels, classification, and export control categorization for all HEC jobs.	Chief Program Management Office
31	3/14/2024	Audit of NASA's High-End Computing Program	IG-24-009	9	Identify and mitigate gaps in the foreign national accreditation access process.	Chief Program Management Office
32	4/25/2024	STEM Engagement	IG-24-010	5	Re-evaluate jurisdictions eligible for EPSCoR funds to ensure effective and equitable distribution of Agency funds.	STEM Engagement
33	4/25/2024	STEM Engagement	IG-24-010	2	Develop a procedure to ensure OSTEM tracks and reports funding for all Agency STEM engagement activities.	STEM Engagement
34	6/6/2024	Audit of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services Initiative	IG-24-013	3	Finalize a management plan with clear leadership authority and responsibility that would delineate CLPS initiative performance goals and metrics that are measurable and targeted, criteria for augmented insight, a formal lessons-learned process, and any other relevant guidelines for the management plan's implementation.	Science
35	6/6/2024	Audit of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services Initiative	IG-24-013	2	Reassess NASA's role in, and contribution to, the commercial lunar delivery market.	Science
36	8/27/2024	NASA's Management of the Mobile Launcher 2 Project	IG-24-016	1	Ensure lessons learned from the ML-2's acquisition, contract, and project management are codified to inform future development efforts.	Exploration Systems Development
37	9/26/2024	NASA's Management of Risks to Sustaining International Space Station Operations through 2030	IG-24-020	1	Report on NASA's progress to reexamine available orbital debris tracking tools and offices to ensure all practicable data sources are leveraged to inform ISS operations and ensure crew safety.	Space Operations
38	9/26/2024	NASA's Management of Risks to Sustaining International Space Station Operations through 2030	IG-24-020	2	Document safety contingency plans and vehicle reassignment rules to help ensure the safe return of crew in the event of an emergency.	Space Operations
39	9/26/2024	NASA's Management of Risks to Sustaining International Space Station Operations through 2030	IG-24-020	3	Develop plans that reflect potential cost savings measures and anticipated reductions in operations for ISS decommissioning.	Space Operations
40	9/26/2024	NASA's Management of Risks to Sustaining International Space Station Operations through 2030	IG-24-020	4	Update the controlled deorbit plan and ensure the plan includes key commitment, technical, technical, schedule, and cost challenges impacting the 2031 deorbit time frame.	Space Operations
41	3/27/2025	Audit of NASA's Zero Trust Architecture: Progress and Challenges in Modernizing IT Systems and Infrastructure	IG-25-004	1	Collaborate with mission directorate officials to update NASA's ZTA implementation plan to include all efforts associated with the transition to ZTA within the non-corporate environment.	Chief Information Officer
42	3/27/2025	Audit of NASA's Zero Trust Architecture: Progress and Challenges in Modernizing IT Systems and Infrastructure	IG-25-004	4	Engage mission directorates as ZTA pathfinders to identify and evaluate early adoption use-case candidates, employ a "test like you fly" approach, and provide insight to potential issues.	Chief Information Officer
43	3/27/2025	Audit of NASA's Zero Trust Architecture: Progress and Challenges in Modernizing IT Systems and Infrastructure	IG-25-004	2	Develop a centralized process to track legacy systems that details deficiencies along with operational, technical, and financial constraints to determine the best course of action for remediation.	Chief Information Officer
44	3/27/2025	Audit of NASA's Zero Trust Architecture: Progress and Challenges in Modernizing IT Systems and Infrastructure	IG-25-004	3	Embed OCIO subject matter experts within the mission directorates to provide Agency-focused advocacy and expertise to analyze mission system cybersecurity compatibility and operational complexities.	Chief Information Officer

45	6/24/2025	NASA's Implementation and Management of its Planetary Defense Strategy	IG-25-006	1	Commit to providing stable funding levels for the NEO Surveyor mission to reduce the risk of further launch delays.	Science
46	6/24/2025	NASA's Implementation and Management of its Planetary Defense Strategy	IG-25-006	2	Work within the construct of NASA and NSF's memorandum of understanding to develop a plan, and an interagency agreement if needed, to assess how current ground-based observatories can prepare for NEO detection, follow-up, and characterization efforts when future advanced survey assets are in operation.	Science
47	6/24/2025	NASA's Implementation and Management of its Planetary Defense Strategy	IG-25-006	5	Update NASA's planetary defense strategy to address missing leading collaboration practices including processes to identify and assign metrics, track progress, and forecast sufficient resources to meet time-based milestones and monitor the collaboration.	Science
48	6/24/2025	NASA's Implementation and Management of its Planetary Defense Strategy	IG-25-006	4	Leverage the draft OTPS report and completed PDCO assessment, as well as lessons from the applied science programs, to develop an appropriate governance structure for PDCO within PSD using the principles of NPD 7120.4E and NPRs 7120.5F or 7120.8A as guidance.	Science
49	6/24/2025	NASA's Implementation and Management of its Planetary Defense Strategy	IG-25-006	3	Develop a detailed strategy and long-range roadmap for a sustainable planetary defense program.	Science
50	7/31/2025	Assessment of NASA's Standing Review Board Practices	IG-25-009	2	Update the SRB Handbook to reflect current policy, processes, and practices.	Chief Program Management Office
51	7/31/2025	Assessment of NASA's Standing Review Board Practices	IG-25-009	9	Develop a formal, role-based training program with a focus on first time members in SRB roles.	Chief Program Management Office
52	7/31/2025	Assessment of NASA's Standing Review Board Practices	IG-25-009	12	Implement a process for mission directorates to facilitate the collection and sharing of lessons learned and document that process in the SRB Handbook.	Chief Program Management Office
53	7/31/2025	Assessment of NASA's Standing Review Board Practices	IG-25-009	11	Identify obstacles that inhibit programs and projects from providing timely information to SRBs and implement solutions so that timelines agreed to for data deliverables are met.	Chief Program Management Office
54	7/31/2025	Assessment of NASA's Standing Review Board Practices	IG-25-009	4	Evaluate the potential for developing a more formalized pipeline and recruitment process for SRB participants that could include maintaining a skills database of past members.	Chief Program Management Office
55	7/31/2025	Assessment of NASA's Standing Review Board Practices	IG-25-009	10	Determine the optimal method(s) and frequency required to keep an SRB appropriately engaged and informed of program and project status between life-cycle reviews and implement an applicable procedure in the SRB Handbook or other policy or guidance.	Chief Program Management Office
56	7/31/2025	Assessment of NASA's Standing Review Board Practices	IG-25-009	3	Evaluate whether the preference for using civil servants is necessary for all disciplines.	Chief Program Management Office
57	7/31/2025	Assessment of NASA's Standing Review Board Practices	IG-25-009	5	Review existing conflict of interest policy and processes and consider clarifying terminology	Chief Program Management Office
58	7/31/2025	Assessment of NASA's Standing Review Board Practices	IG-25-009	6	Establish a process for verifying that mission directorates are conducting the required conflict of interest reviews timely and implement record retention policies regarding SRB conflict of interest review documents.	Chief Program Management Office

59	7/31/2025	Assessment of NASA's Standing Review Board Practices	IG-25-009	7	Verify that contracts used to engage SRB members through contractors adhere to the conflict-of-interest processes established in the SRB Handbook.	Chief Program Management Office
60	7/31/2025	Assessment of NASA's Standing Review Board Practices	IG-25-009	8	Determine whether there is a need for individual mission directorate guidance for SRB execution or if individualized mission directorate tailoring can be more effectively accomplished in the ToR.	Chief Program Management Office
61	7/31/2025	Assessment of NASA's Standing Review Board Practices	IG-25-009	1	Increase the oversight role of the CPMO to address deficiencies in the execution of SRBs and provide SRB members an independent avenue to communicate and address issues during and after the SRBs.	Chief Program Management Office
62	8/4/2025	NASA's Approach to Infrastructure and Operational Resilience	IG-25-008	1	Provide the Centers with formal and clear guidance on the roles, responsibilities, expectations, and processes for defining, assessing, addressing, and monitoring weather-related infrastructure resilience.	Strategic Infrastructure
63	8/4/2025	NASA's Approach to Infrastructure and Operational Resilience	IG-25-008	2	Develop a process map for work being done to assess, address, and mitigate weather-related vulnerabilities.	Strategic Infrastructure
64	8/4/2025	NASA's Approach to Infrastructure and Operational Resilience	IG-25-008	3	Ensure pertinent weather-related risks identified in Center Resilience Assessments are entered into the Agency's Office of Strategic Infrastructure risk database.	Strategic Infrastructure
65	8/4/2025	NASA's Approach to Infrastructure and Operational Resilience	IG-25-008	4	Update master planning guidance to include expectations for incorporating Center Resilience Assessments into Center Master Plans.	Strategic Infrastructure
66	8/6/2025	Audit of Government-Furnished Property	IG-25-010	1	Incorporate Office of Strategic Infrastructure Logistics Management Division representatives with property expertise into the programs and projects at the contract's onset to ensure procurement officials receive sufficient support.	Exploration Systems Development
67	8/6/2025	Audit of Government-Furnished Property	IG-25-010	2	Review Artemis-related contracts that are not delegated to the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) for contractor-held property management to determine whether NASA can leverage the delegations already in place to consolidate government property administration tasks.	Procurement
68	9/9/2025	NASA's Management of its Dragonfly Mission	IG-25-011	2	Update Dragonfly's project plan to reflect baseline commitments.	Science
69	9/9/2025	NASA's Management of its Dragonfly Mission	IG-25-011	5	Ensure the science community is informed of updates to the expected scope and cadence for future New Frontiers missions.	Science
70	1/16/2026	Oversight of the FY 2025 Financial Statement Audit	IG-26-001	1	Ensure that financial reporting control activities require documentation to evidence management's analysis of accounting updates, planned changes and rationale for such changes, and management's review and approval of any planned accounting updates.	Chief Financial Officer
71	1/26/2026	NASA's Implementation of the Mission Support Future Architecture Program	IG-26-002	1	Develop a process to measure desired outcomes and efficiencies for future organizational changes.	Mission Support
72	1/26/2026	NASA's Implementation of the Mission Support Future Architecture Program	IG-26-002	2	Develop a program and project management framework or roadmap for organizational change.	Mission Support
73	1/26/2026	Oversight of the FY 2025 Financial Statement Audit	IG-26-001	2	Perform ongoing monitoring of anticipated accounting changes and communicate potential updates to relevant stakeholders.	Chief Financial Officer
74	3/10/2026	NASA's Management of the Human Landing System Contracts	IG-26-004	1	Ensure an approach for managing GTAs that have been canceled, unfulfilled, modified, or realigned is formalized in HLS Program policy.	Exploration Systems Development
75	3/10/2026	NASA's Management of the Human Landing System Contracts	IG-26-004	4	Consult with the Commercial Crew Program to review post-variance acceptance risk assessment findings related to its manual control waiver for lessons that can be applied prior to HLS certification.	Exploration Systems Development

76	3/10/2026	NASA’s Management of the Human Landing System Contracts	IG-26-004	2	Ensure an approach for decrementing costs for GTAs submitted after contract proposal, including a timeline for recovery, is formalized in HLS Program policy.	Exploration Systems Development
77	3/10/2026	NASA’s Management of the Human Landing System Contracts	IG-26-004	3	Update the Use of Government Resources clause in both the SpaceX and Blue Origin contracts to reflect GTA policy changes.	Exploration Systems Development
78	3/10/2026	NASA’s Management of the Human Landing System Contracts	IG-26-004	5	Update crew survival analyses, including decision packages, to include strategies for extended crew survival.	Exploration Systems Development
79	9/30/2025	NASA's Management of the Extravehicular Activity Spacesuits	IG-25-012	3	Coordinate with an existing NASA supply chain group to investigate alternative supply chain management strategies.	Space Operations
80	4/20/2026	NASA's Management of the Extravehicular Activity Spacesuits	IG-26-006	1	Seek industry input on current xEVAS contract requirements to maintain competition as needed in the future.	Exploration Systems Development
81	4/20/2026	NASA's Management of the Extravehicular Activity Spacesuits	IG-26-006	2	Develop a plan to establish interoperability standards between Artemis lunar vehicles and spacesuits.	Exploration Systems Development
82	6/22/2026	Audit of NASA's Launch Infrastructure	IG-26-010	3	Assess the ability to charge an Other Approved Indirect Rate on reimbursable agreements for launch services that is dedicated to maintenance and upgrades of common use launch infrastructure.	Kennedy Space Center
83	6/22/2026	Audit of NASA's Launch Infrastructure	IG-26-010	1	Conduct a study to understand the effects of heavy vehicle traffic associated with sustained increases in launch-related transport activity on Kennedy roadways and establish a mitigation plan to address the impacts.	Kennedy Space Center
84	6/30/2026	NASA's Management of its Commercial Crew Program	IG-26-011	1	As the contract allows, defer payments to Boeing for any Starliner-3 milestones until the human-rating certification of Starliner is complete.	Space Operations
85	6/30/2026	NASA's Management of its Commercial Crew Program	IG-26-011	2	Utilize the results of the recently completed and ongoing investigations to develop a schedule to inform the dates of the next Starliner flight and future post-certification missions.	Space Operations
86	6/30/2026	NASA's Management of its Commercial Crew Program	IG-26-011	4	Work with Boeing to establish a central process to ensure crew flight simulation testing results on hardware and software modifications are accessible to appropriate NASA officials.	Space Operations
87	6/30/2026	NASA's Management of its Commercial Crew Program	IG-26-011	3	Ensure the CFT issues and recommendations from the Program Investigation Team investigation are resolved and documented in NASA’s mishap information system and update the Starliner flight manifest to include the time necessary to complete these additional efforts.	Space Operations
88	6/30/2026	NASA's Management of its Commercial Crew Program	IG-26-011	6	Utilize the work and workforce assessments conducted under the NASA Administrator’s February 2026 Workforce Directive to inform and prioritize hiring for critical skillsets needed to manage and oversee CCP operations in LEO through the ISS’s decommissioning.	Space Operations

Note: This table omits 15 recommendations that NASA determined to be classified or sensitive and are therefore unsuitable for public release.

RECENTLY CLOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

Row No.	Issue Date	Report Title	Report No.	Recommendation No.	Recommendation	Responsible Office
1	5/1/2024	NASA's Readiness for the Artemis II Crewed Mission to Lunar Orbit	IG-24-011	3	Require EGS conduct additional verification and validation for launch imagery equipment prior to launch attempts should launch conditions change.	Exploration Systems Development
2	9/9/2025	NASA's Management of its Dragonfly Mission	IG-25-011	1	Document lessons learned from the APMC Chair's decision to begin Phase C development work prior to formally passing KDP-C and establishing an ABC to the Office of Management and Budget and Congress.	Science
3	5/1/2024	NASA's Readiness for the Artemis II Crewed Mission to Lunar Orbit	IG-24-011	6	Establish a course of action and timeline for individual Artemis system design changes before beginning integrated system assembly stacking operations.	Exploration Systems Development