



Laika Research Institute

Dr. Sampson Spahn
Group Leader, Senior Scientist

Division of Rocketry
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Mr. Leonard Shatner
725 NW Science Street
New York, NY 10279-9610

July 4, 2023

RE: Letter of Commitment, US DOE DE-FOA-0000000, Proposal Title "Solar-Powered Rockets for All"

Dear Mr. Shatner,

As you know, I am currently the lead researcher at the Laika Research Institute, Division of Rocketry and I am so very pleased to offer my unwavering support of your current SBIR application, submitted under the Funding Opportunity Announcement, DE-FOA-0000000, entitled "Solar-Powered Rockets for All." The proposed development of the creation of solar-powered rockets is of great interest to my institute due to its potential applications in many of our ongoing projects. The creation of solar-powered rockets has great potential to significantly lower the cost of propelling rockets into the atmosphere and will greatly expand their commercial application, as well as reducing the amount of environmentally harmful waste.

I have reviewed your application and find your research and development approach both sound and well researched. Furthermore, it is my assessment that your research plan can be completed in the timeframe indicated in your application and that the commercialization and market potential are significant.

My work on alternative fuels and power sources for rockets is well documented and has been widely published in the United States and Europe. I have over 20 years of experience in this particular area of inquiry and I have conducted research for NASA and the European Space Agency. In all that time, I have not encountered a project that is as potentially groundbreaking and impactful as what you have proposed. I will be happy to speak on your behalf to the review committee should they have any questions or need further proof of the potential of your proposed project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sampson Spahn

Dr. Sampson Spahn,
Group Leader,
Laika Research Institute