

# Regaining the vision of space exploration

It's a new day in space exploration. The Mars Exploration Rover mission has brought new hope and energy to our country's space program. From NASA scientists to news reporters and schoolchildren, the increased interest in space exploration is clear, and Northeast Ohio should be proud.

Our own NASA Glenn Research Center has played a key role in this mission through the contribution of the Space Power Facility at Plum Brook Station in Sandusky, which analyzed and tested the critical airbag landing system. The MER project has been a good reminder of the center's capabilities and its significance to our community.

NASA Glenn is part of the fabric of Northeast Ohio's economy, employing more than 3,600 residents and generating more than \$1 billion and 12,000 jobs statewide. Since it was established in 1941, the center's scientists and engineers have led many agency projects and invented a number of products that have been transferred to everyday use by America and other nations.

The creativity and genius of those at NASA Glenn continues today.

President George W. Bush recently said, "Much remains to explore and learn." I cannot agree more. As our country renews its commitment to

space exploration, we look forward to NASA Glenn's future as a key participant in the return to the moon and humans' adventures to Mars and beyond.

Much remains for NASA Glenn to contribute.

Luis M. Proenza  
Akron

*Proenza is president of The University of Akron and chairman of the Ohio Aerospace Council.*