

**Agreement to Amend and Extend the
Memorandum of Understanding
Between the
United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration
and the
German Aerospace Center
for
International Cooperation on the GRACE Mission**

The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the German Aerospace Center (DLR);

Desiring to continue their cooperation with respect to the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) Mission under their Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the "MOU") signed by NASA on November 13, 1998, and by DLR on December 12, 1998; and

Deciding to amend and extend the enclosed MOU as specified herein;

Hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE 2 shall be replaced with the following:

ARTICLE 2 – Mission Description

The extended GRACE mission is intended to provide an improved model of the Earth's gravity field at monthly intervals. The model gravity fields will be used to enhance global climate studies. The GRACE mission will continue to acquire the data for the gravity fields by flying two polar-orbiting satellites in a loosely controlled tandem formation. Variations in the Earth's gravity field will cause the distance between the two satellites to vary. This variation will be measured with high accuracy by a microwave link between the two satellites and measurements of these variations will be used to determine the Earth's gravity field. The Parties acknowledge that any future extensions of GRACE operations are subject to approvals through established NASA and DLR processes and subsequent NASA-DLR coordination.

Pursuant to ARTICLE 15 of the MOU, the duration of the MOU shall be extended until December 31, 2009.

This agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last signature below.

FOR THE UNITED STATES
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Michael P. O'Brien

March 16, 2009
Date

FOR THE GERMAN AEROSPACE
CENTER (DLR)

Christoph Hohage

27.02.09
Date

Dr. Hubert Reile

26.02.2009
Date

Enclosure