Dr. David E. Bowles
Deputy Director, NASA Langley Research Center

Dr. David E. Bowles is the Deputy Director at NASA’s Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA. NASA Langley, founded in 1917, is the nation’s first civilian aeronautical research facility and NASA’s oldest field center.

When he served as the Associate Director, Dr. Bowles was the Center Director’s chief operating officer and senior advisor on institutional administration, and manages day-to-day operations with a focus on meeting the Center’s commitments.

Dr. Bowles served as director of Langley’s Exploration and Space Operations Directorate from 2007 until being selected as Associate Director in March of 2012. In this position he had overall management responsibility to identify opportunities, define implementation strategies, and deliver on mission commitments in support of the needs of NASA’s Human Exploration & Operations Mission Directorate, and the Office of Chief Technologist's Space Technology Program.

Prior to serving as Langley's Director of Exploration and Space Operations, Dr. Bowles had spent 11 years involved with program and project management for both aeronautics and space related activities at the Center, including serving as Manager for the Airframe Structures Integrity and Composites elements of NASA’s Advanced Subsonic Technology Program, and as the Vehicle Systems Research & Technology Project Manager of NASA’s Next Generation Launch Technology Program.

A NASA Langley employee since 1980, Dr. Bowles began his career conducting research in the area of advanced materials for use on aerospace vehicles. His field of specialization was the response of composite materials in the space environment, and he has published numerous research papers concerning the effects of materials degradation on structural and thermal properties.

Dr. Bowles earned bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in engineering mechanics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1978, 1980 and 1990, respectively. The recipient of numerous awards, He’s received NASA’s Outstanding Leadership Medal in 2005. He lives in Suffolk, Va., with his wife Michele and they have three children.

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