The Way To What's Next

AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION SPACE PRIORITIES — 2025

The Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) is the premier advocate for America's space industry, supply chain, and workforce. Across AIA's nearly 300 member companies are the suppliers, designers, manufacturers, launch providers, and operators of commercial, civil, and national security satellites and space launch vehicles. AIA member companies have supported exploration and national security space activities since the beginning of the space age. Our members continue to drive the next space age by providing the space-based capabilities critical to ensuring American leadership in space, growing our economy, and keeping our country safe.

CROSS-GOVERNMENT SPACE PRIORITIES

AIA and our members are committed to working with the Trump Administration and Congress to uphold and advance U.S. leadership in space. By focusing on the following cross-government space priorities, we can reinforce America's position as a global leader in space exploration and innovation. The U.S. government should:

- **Ensure robust space policy leadership**. Maintain an active space policy function within the Executive Office of the President to coordinate a whole-of-government strategy with input from all stakeholders. Engage with industry to receive feedback on priorities and initiatives to keep American space innovation strong. Ensure U.S. government policy and regulation enables U.S. space industry global leadership.
- **Maximize commercial space capabilities**. Leverage U.S. industry's commercial capabilities to the maximum extent. Implement policies that support and promote U.S. commercial products and solutions, for both government and international partners.
- **Maintain a competitive regulatory environment**. Continuously assess regulations, including licensing and export controls, to ensure a competitive U.S. regulatory environment.
- **Strengthen the space supply chain**. Enhance the resilience of the space supply chain and industrial base, including supporting specialty manufacturers and securing critical components and materials. The government should also identify and invest in strategic shortages and bottlenecks to advance space system development and proliferate the supply of unique components. Implement state-of-the-art security measures, anti-tamper protections, and safeguards against foreign investments from adversarial nations to protect the industrial base.
- **Invest in space infrastructure**. Strengthen national assets that enable the commercial space industry, such as spaceports and waters systems. Ensure resiliency and improved capabilities for domestic transportation methods used by manufacturers, including water transit systems and spaceports. Understand and plan for the dramatic increase in both size and cadence of launch vehicles and work to accommodate commodities and range scheduling at space launch complexes around the country.
- **Expand international industry collaboration.** Increase industry participation in U.S. government-led international dialogues and activities, leveraging international partnerships to expand opportunities for U.S. leadership, U.S. industry collaboration, and joint space system development and operations.
- **Grow the space workforce.** Invest in education and workforce development to expand the current and future space workforce.
- **Leverage space capabilities across the government**. Recognize the benefit of space technologies to national security, finance, agriculture, weather, communications, energy, emergency response, and scientific research.
- **Promote space safety**. Ensure a safe and enduring space environment through U.S. leadership in international standard and norm setting and through properly resourced and coordinated efforts across civil and national security agencies on space situational awareness, space traffic coordination, and orbital debris mitigation and remediation.

AIA AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

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CIVIL SPACE PRIORITIES

AIA's Space Division coordinates the positions of AIA member companies on civil space related issues, plans, funding, regulatory rules and policies for government agencies. Responsibilities include supporting the development of NASA's space and technology programs and their supporting infrastructures, as well as tracking government space-related science activities, such as space science, meteorology, and Earth science. Civil space agencies include the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

- **Maintain program stability and grow investments across a balanced portfolio**. Space programs require multi-year planning and stable budgets given their complexity.
- **Sustain lunar and cislunar objectives.** As NASA advances its plans to return to the Moon as a stepping stone for Mars exploration, it is imperative to maintain a lunar and cislunar presence to prevent ceding any part of the space domain to our adversaries.
- **Ensure continuous U.S. presence in low Earth orbit (LEO).** With International Space Station (ISS) operations extended to 2030, funding and developing policies that will enable an uninterrupted transition from the ISS to future commercial LEO destinations, supported by a diverse fleet of U.S. launch vehicles for cargo and crew, will ensure U.S. leadership and continuous U.S. human presence in LEO.
- **Advance science missions based on decadal surveys**. Continue decadal survey-based science missions across space science disciplines, ensuring the United States remains on the forefront of advancements in fundamental areas such as the search for life, and exploration of the universe, solar system, and Earth. Prioritize the integration of commercially available capabilities to achieve science goals.
- **Fund NOAA's next-generation weather systems**. Support NOAA's acquisition strategy to develop the next generation of geostationary, LEO, and solar weather satellite systems, while encouraging NOAA to maximize the use of commercial space capabilities to support these systems.
- **Expand microgravity research**. Continue to foster microgravity research aboard suborbital and orbital research platforms, advancing scientific knowledge and stimulating commercial markets.
- **Utilize the Suborbital Crew Program**. Enable government astronaut and researcher participation in microgravity research and training through the Suborbital Crew Program.
- **Maintain an independent NASA STEM education program**. Fund and aid STEM initiatives and programs across the United States to support the expanding space industry.
- **Clarify technology ownership and transfer at the offset**. As the U.S. government increasingly relies on commercial capabilities as well as private partnerships for technology development, establishing clearer rules for technology ownership, licensing, and transfer from the offset of the partnership would protect intellectual property and encourage innovation.

NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE PRIORITIES

AIA's Space Division coordinates the positions of AIA member companies on national security-related space issues, plans, funding, regulatory rules and policies for the Defense Department, including Space Force, the military services, Space Development Agency, Missile Defense Agency, National Reconnaissance Office and other government agencies. National security space includes all military and intelligence community uses of space-based capabilities. While all Department of Defense (DOD) services and combatant commands rely on space and have internal space activities, the U.S. Space Force (USSF) and U.S. Space Command are DOD's lead service and warfighting command for space, respectively.

- **Maintain bipartisan support and budget stability for national security space activities**. Ensure policies and investments reflect the evolving and growing threats to our space infrastructure.
- **Build resilient architectures for national security space mission areas**. The United States is dependent on space, so we must have the technology in place to recognize, deter, and defeat growing threats to key space systems. Architectures should be able to operate effectively during conflict, be cyber-secure, protected and defended, include redundancy for key space mission areas, integrate emerging commercial technologies, and be able to be rapidly reconstituted or augmented on operational timelines. Requirements and acquisition processes should be optimized to enable architecture resiliency goals at the speed of relevance against threats.
- **Establish an accountability mechanism for the DOD and the USSF's Commercial Space Strategies.** Create accountability metrics and progress milestones to track and ensure that the DOD Commercial Space Integration Strategy and the USSF's Commercial Space Strategy are effectively implemented. Validate that programmed funding aligns with the respective strategies and that commercially available solutions are fully leveraged to speed delivery to the warfighter.
- **Formalize new mission areas.** Expedite requirements definitions for the DOD and the Intelligence Community with respect to new capabilities with national security space applications. Align prototype and experimental efforts to develop into new capabilities and formal programs of record to include budget requests and integration into future space architectures.
- **Develop offensive space capabilities.** Build sufficient offensive capabilities to prohibit the prospect of a near-peer, space-enabled attack against the joint force.
- **Develop a National Security Space Strategy.** Direct the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) and DOD to jointly develop a strategy that clearly delineates and deconflicts their roles and responsibilities. Ensure the strategy describes how commercial space capabilities will be part of an integrated space strategy.
- **Clarify and deconflict space intelligence gathering roles.** Resolve the current debate over the jurisdiction of tactical intelligence gathering and empower the USSF to conduct necessary tactical surveillance and reconnaissance to satisfy mission objectives.
- **Improve Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (PNT) resiliency.** With increased threats to the Global Positioning System (GPS), consider opportunities to build in alternate systems and improve resiliency of PNT capabilities.
- **Increase speed of acquisition.** Industry is outpacing the federal procurement process when it comes to developing, testing, and deploying new space systems. As U.S. adversaries become more assertive in space, it is imperative that we rapidly procure and integrate innovative space technologies into our national defense. Requirements and acquisition processes should be adjusted to enable architecture resiliency goals at the speed of relevance against threats, looking to examples of acquisition organizations such as the Space Development Agency.
- **Reduce over-classification**. Lower classification barriers to improve the acquisition process, increase budget transparency, speed up capability delivery, and increase information sharing, particularly with international allies and partners, and eliminate duplicative classification of the same programs and architectures across defense and intelligence organizations. Improve threat-sharing mechanisms with space companies and operators.

COMMERCIAL SPACE PRIORITIES

Commercial space encompasses a broad set of commercial enterprises, including companies that build satellites, launch vehicles, and ground equipment; launch and operate space vehicles and human spaceflight activities; and provide products or services, such as satellite servicing, Earth imagery, and telecommunications. Commercial space requires regular interaction on a regulatory and policy basis with the Departments of Commerce and State, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the Export-Import Bank.

- **Preserve and advance spectrum for space applications.** Spectrum is a finite resource with a growing demand from emerging technologies such as 5G. The government should lead efforts to maintain and expand internationally harmonized spectrum access for both existing and future space applications.
- **Invest in the Office of Space Commerce (OSC).** Provide the OSC with adequate resources to fulfill its space situational awareness and space traffic coordination responsibilities and continue its role as an industry advocate within the U.S. government and internationally, promoting long-term safety and security of the space domain.
- **Increase investment in the FAA's commercial space operations**. Expand funding for the FAA's commercial space operations, including launch and reentry licensing activities. Also support the timely development and adoption of national airspace integration capabilities.
- **Update space nuclear system procedures.** Revise uranium fuel processing, launch safety, and ground testing procedures in accordance with Space Policy Directive 6 to advance the development and testing of space nuclear systems.
- **Establish in-space mission authorization authority.** Designate a civil executive branch agency to oversee in-space mission authorization, following the principles set forth by AIA to establish a minimally burdensome process.
- **Streamline launch approval processes.** Simplify launch approvals by requiring only USSF range approval for FAA-licensed launches from federal ranges. This would allow the FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation to reallocate personnel to process launch licenses and compliance for FAA-licensed launches from non-federal ranges. The FAA should be directed to accept USSF range approval as a demonstration of compliance with an operator's FAA license.