

Akin™

## Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update



November 15, 2024

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### Good Afternoon!

*After the Republicans' sweeping victory in last week's election, the space community waits for guidance from the incoming Administration. Meanwhile, Congress enters the lame duck session with a slate of must-pass bills, including the NDAA and the 2025 appropriations bill. Away from Washington, China says the Long March 10A - the rocket designed to take it to the Moon - will fly in 2026, and Japan and Poland sign onto the U.S. military's Wideband Global Satcom network. Just another busy couple of weeks in the business of leaving Earth.*

*All this and more in this edition of Akin's Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update.*

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### Akin Spotlight

Introducing Akin's [Policy Pulse](#), a comprehensive hub and bi-weekly newsletter, thoughtfully crafted by members of our bipartisan lobbying & public policy, regulatory and litigation practices to serve as your go-to resource for essential insights, in-depth analyses and practical political tools following the 2024 U.S. Elections.

[Subscribe here](#) to receive bi-weekly *Policy Pulse* updates on the potential agenda for the 119th Congress and the incoming administration.

## On The Hill

### Articles and Quotes

#### **Congress Returns to Changed Political Landscape, but Same To-Do List (Space Policy Online)**

Next year, Republicans will control the White House, the Senate and the House, marking a distinct shift in the political landscape. However, with two months left in session, the sitting Congress still must pass fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). There are also several pieces of space-oriented bills that Congress could clear, including the *NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (H.R. 8958)*, passed by the House in September, and a commercial space authorization bill.

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## Introduced Legislation & Legislative Updates

On Wednesday, November 13, the House Oversight Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology (IT) and Government Innovation and Subcommittee on National Security, the Border and Foreign Affairs held a **hearing** titled “Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena: Exposing the Truth.” Talking points and questions from participants centered around a lack of government transparency on alleged federal unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP) programs. You can find the hearing summary [here](#).

Please find our Space Legislation Tracker [here](#).

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## Recent and Upcoming Congressional Hearings

(Nov 1 - Nov 29, 2024)

There are no upcoming relevant congressional hearings.

## In the White House/Executive Branch



## Articles and Quotes

### **Space and Defense Sectors Brace for Potential Trump Policy Shifts** (SpaceNews)

As Donald Trump prepares for a second term, the space and defense sectors anticipate significant policy shifts, including increased spending on space and missile defense programs. Experts predict changes in alliances, contracting practices and international cooperation, with potential strains on relationships with certain allied nations. Further, Elon Musk’s influence on space policy could accelerate commercial space innovation but raise transparency concerns. A potential “America First” approach may deprioritize international collaboration, possibly jeopardizing international efforts in space security and sustainability.

### **NASA Faces Disruptive Presidential Transition** (SpaceNews)

The influence of Elon Musk on President-elect Donald Trump and his upcoming administration may lay out a disruptive presidential transition for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). During a panel at the Beyond Earth Symposium on November 12, veterans of past transitions warned that Musk’s involvement could lead to the administration probing key programs such as human spaceflight. The incoming Trump administration may look to speed progress and reduce costs for various NASA initiatives, with Musk playing a central role in reshaping the agency’s direction.

### **Chamber of Commerce Letter to FCC on ISAM Proposed Rulemaking** (United States Chamber of Commerce)

On November 11, the United States Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) regarding a **proposed rule** on in-space services, assembly and manufacturing (ISAM) from the agency. The letter claims that the proposed rule, which would change ISAM licensing requirements to cover individual services rather than comprehensive use cases, could harm sector growth by creating regulatory delays and licensing inconsistencies. The Chamber asked the FCC to broaden the proposed licensing

requirements to cover “activity profiles” rather than individual services, which they argued will accelerate the licensing process and create regulatory clarity.

### **What Will a Second Trump Term Mean for Space Policy? (Space Policy Online)**

President-elect Donald Trump’s first term brought several changes to U.S. space programs and policy: NASA’s Artemis program, the creation of the U.S. Space Force, the reestablishment of the U.S. Space Command and seven Space Policy Directives. Now set to take a second term next year with SpaceX head Elon Musk leading his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), Trump may set his sights on human spaceflight to Mars and bolstering the commercial sector. The future of the National Space Council, chaired by the Vice President, remains to be determined.

### **GOP Rep Expects Trump to Move Space Command to Alabama in First Week (The Hill)**

On November 11, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL) said he believes that President-elect Trump will move the Space Command to Alabama during his first week in office. The command is currently located in Colorado Springs. Rogers, the Chair of the House Armed Services Committee, stated that the Biden-Harris administration unjustly overturned a Trump-Pence administration decision to locate the command in Huntsville, Alabama.

### **Space Force General: We Need More Guardians in Joint Roles (Air and Space Forces)**

On November 6, Lt. Gen. Douglas A. Schiess emphasized the Space Force’s growing need for its Guardians to serve in joint roles. Similarly, he asserted that the U.S. Space Command needs more non-Guardians to ensure that the U.S. military is fully utilizing cross-functional capabilities. Gen. Schiess proposed placing more Space Force personnel in “purple” Joint Staff and command staff roles, as well as placing Guardians on the Joint Staff.

## **Federal Agency Space News**

### **National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

**NASA Welcomes Denmark as Newest Artemis Accords Signatory** (November 13, 2024)

**JPL Workforce Update** (November 12, 2024)

**Summary of the Second OMI-TROPOMI Science Team Meeting** (November 12, 2024)

**Powerful New US-Indian Satellite Will Track Earth’s Changing Surface** (November 8, 2024)

### **U.S. Space Force**

**CIC Expands to Include SDA, ISR Capabilities** (November 7, 2024)

**Operation Olympic Defender: Allied Space Operations Centers Prioritize Efforts for a Shared Space Common Operational Picture** (November 7, 2024)

**Centaur Upper Stage Installation Recognizes Trailblazing Space Program** (November 4, 2024)



## Articles & Quotes

### **China's New Rocket for Crew and Moon to Launch In 2026 (SpaceNews)**

China's Long March 10A rocket is set for its first flight in 2026, marking a crucial step in the Beijing's efforts to send astronauts to the moon. This new rocket will support China's lunar ambitions, including crewed missions and the establishment of a lunar outpost by 2030. NASA plans to land humans on the moon with Artemis III no earlier than 2026, though the mission may face delays.

### **Outcomes of ITU's First Space Sustainability Forum (International Telecommunication Union)**

In September, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) hosted its first Space Sustainability Forum, focusing on international collaboration to ensure the long-term viability of all space activities. Key outcomes of the summit, which included governments, space agencies and the private sector, included recognizing the importance of space sustainability across environmental, operational, economic and scientific dimensions, and the role of international actors. The forum emphasized the necessity of partnerships, capacity-building and the development of user-friendly tools for new entrants in the space sector.

### **Japan, Poland to Join U.S. Military Satellite Network (SpaceNews)**

Japan and Poland have reached agreements to join the U.S. military's Wideband Global Satcom (WGS) satellite network, a system that already supports several other partner nations. According to Space Force officials, the move aims to enhance communication capabilities and strengthen military coordination among the U.S. and its allies, particularly in response to growing threats from China and Russia. WGS, which claims several North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member nations as partners, allows participating nations to share in the costs of satellite development and upkeep.

*Check out below for comment opportunities, requests for proposals, notices of proposed rulemaking and a look at the week ahead in space events:*

## Comment Opportunities (RFIs)

### **Conference on Lunar, Planetary and Space Sciences**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Close Date: November 20, 2024

### **Engineering Services and Science Capability Augmentation (ESSCA) II**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Close Date: November 25, 2024

### **Lunar and Martian Gravity**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Close Date: November 29, 2024

### **Commercial and Military Satellite Communications Operations Support (COSMOS)**

Department of Defense  
Close Date: December 2, 2024

## Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

### **Atmosphere Support (ATMOS)**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: November 27, 2024

### **2025 HERO Appendix A: NASA Human Research Program Omnibus Opportunity**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: December 2, 2024

### **Contract for Organizing Spaceflight Mission Operations and Systems (COSMOS)**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: December 9, 2024

### **2024 Advanced X-ray Imaging Satellite (AXIS) Mirror Assembly Development - Partnership Opportunity Document (POD)**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: December 10, 2024

### **Environmental Test and Integration Services (ETIS) IV**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: January 21, 2025

### **Sensor Open Systems Architecture (SOSA) S3C & HPSC Turn-Key Product Development System**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: January 31, 2025

### **ROSES-24 D.19 Habitable Worlds Observatory System Technology Demonstrations and Mission Architecture Studies**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: February 6, 2025

## Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

No new notices of proposed rules.

## Upcoming Space Events

### **Venus Exploration Analysis Group Meeting**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

November 17-19, 2024

### **Schriever Spacepower Series: Derek Tournear**

Mitchell Institute

November 19, 2024

### **i-SAIRAS 2024**

**CSIRO**

November 19-21, 2024

**Space Studies Board and Board on Physics and Astronomy Joint Meeting**

National Academies

November 19-21, 2024

**Transforming Geospatial Intelligence: Data Labeling for AI Webinar**

SpaceNews

November 20, 2024

**Outer Planets Assessment Group Meeting**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

November 20-22, 2024

**International Workshop on Space Resources**

Secure World Foundation

November 21-22, 2024

**Space Debris and Sustainability Conference**

International Academy of Astronautics

December 2-4, 2024

**UN World Space Forum**

UN Office for Outer Space Affairs

December 3-5, 2024

**American Society for Gravitational and Space Research**

ASGR

December 3-7, 2024

**Space Resiliency Summit**

Defense Strategies Institute

December 4-5, 2024

**Cislunar Security Conference**

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory

December 4-6, 2024

**Galaxy Forum China 2024**

International Lunar Observatory Association

December 8-12, 2024

**AGU Annual Meeting**

American Geophysical Union

December 9-13, 2024

Learn more about our Space Law and Policy practice.

## Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

## Authors



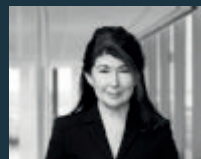
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