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# Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update



July 26, 2024

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## Good Afternoon!

*This is Akin's biweekly policy newsletter on space policy and regulatory developments, providing information on major space headlines and forthcoming space-related events and hearings:*

## On The Hill

### Articles and Quotes

#### **Lucas Welcomes Rep. Greg Lopez to the Science Committee (House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology)**

House Science, Space and Technology Committee Chairman Frank Lucas announced Representative Greg Lopez (R-CO) as the newest member. Chairman Lucas welcomed Rep. Lopez, highlighting his potential to drive innovation and research essential for U.S. leadership in science and technology. Rep. Lopez expressed his commitment to representing Colorado's 4th Congressional district, known for its robust tech and science industry.

#### **Senate Appropriators Say Spending Bill Includes NASA Increase (SpaceNews)**

Senate appropriations leaders plan to increase the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) budget and safeguard the Artemis lunar mission in the 2025 spending bill, despite concerns over the budgeting process. The Senate Appropriations Committee will review the commerce, justice and science (CJS) bill on July 25. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) confirmed increased NASA funding without specifics, noting the importance of maintaining America's space leadership amid fiscal constraints. Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) emphasized protecting Artemis, especially against China's space ambitions.

#### **U.S. Senate Delegation, AIA Showcase American Leadership in A&D at Farnborough Airshow (AIA Aerospace News)**

A Senate delegation of six Senators led by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS), along with Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) President Eric Fanning, opened the 2024 Farnborough International Airshow, emphasizing the U.S. aerospace and defense industry's role in national security and competitiveness. The event highlighted bipartisan support for showcasing American innovation and fostering global industry connections. Senators praised their states' contributions to aerospace advancements and stressed the importance of collaboration to ensure America's leadership in technology and safety.

## [The Pentagon Needs a Strategy for Deep Space \(Air and Space Forces\)](#)

The Senate Armed Services Committee Report on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal 2025 (FY25) highlights the critical need for a Department of Defense (DOD) strategy in cislunar space to address national security risks posed by potential dominance from China and other rivals. The strategy, due by May 31, 2025, will outline goals, assess threats and identify partnerships and investments, primarily tasking the Space Force. This initiative aims to secure U.S. interests in the complex gravitational region between Earth and the Moon, emphasizing the importance of resources to maintain space superiority amidst growing global competition.

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## Introduced Legislation

No Legislative Space Updates.

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

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## Recent and Upcoming Congressional Hearings

July 29 - August 9, 2024

The Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a hearing on the findings and recommendations of the Commission on the National Defense Strategy on Tuesday, July 30, at 9:30 AM.

## In The Executive Branch



## Articles and Quotes

### [NASA Space Technology Head Leaves The Agency \(SpaceNews\)](#)

NASA's head of space technology, Kurt "Spuds" Vogel, has retired after just six months. He will be temporarily replaced by Clayton Turner, director of Langley Research Center. Vogel's departure was unexpected as he was leading a critical technology shortfall analysis to prioritize NASA's future investments. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson thanked Vogel for his service. Dawn Schaible, deputy director of Glenn Research Center, will serve as interim director of Langley. The status of Vogel's assessment remains uncertain as he was set to present updates at the ASCEND conference later this month.

### [U.S. Military To Award \\$3 Billion Contract For AI-Driven Intelligence \(SpaceNews\)](#)

The U.S. military plans to award a \$3 billion contract for the Long-Range Enterprise Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Activity (LEIA) to enhance threat monitoring in the Indo-Pacific. LEIA will leverage commercial data and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven analytics from various platforms. Coordinated by Special Operations Command Pacific for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, the contract reflects the military's increasing reliance on commercial data and advanced analytics to maintain situational awareness. The U.S. Space Force's TacSRT pilot program, utilizing commercial space capabilities, has already supported disaster response operations globally. The LEIA contract is expected to be awarded later this year.

## **U.S. Nuclear Command Satellites Need Hardening Against Attacks, Report Warns (SpaceNews)**

The Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security released a report on July 15 urging the U.S. to protect low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites, critical for nuclear command and control, from high-altitude nuclear detonations. The study highlights the growing threats from Russia and China, which are developing space-based nuclear weapons and sophisticated anti-satellite capabilities. The report recommends accelerating the deployment of radiation-hardened satellites and other protective measures as the U.S. modernizes its NC3 systems. Vulnerabilities in new LEO satellite constellations and the shift from analog to digital systems pose significant risks that need urgent addressing.

## **U.S. Space Force Chief Emphasizes International Partnerships (SpaceNews)**

Gen. Chance Saltzman, U.S. Space Force chief, emphasized the importance of international partnerships in a keynote at the Global Air and Space Chiefs Conference. Highlighting the appointment of U.K. Air Marshal Paul Godfrey as his assistant chief, Saltzman termed the strategy "integrated by design," underscoring collaborations with military allies, commercial industry, academia and nonprofits. He cited partnerships with India, Japan and Norway, and initiatives like Operation Olympic Defender to bolster deterrence against space threats. Saltzman stressed that alliances are vital for the Space Force's success, aligning with U.S. policy and addressing increasing counterspace threats.

## **NASA Signs U.S., Saudi Arabia Agreement for Civil Aeronautics, Space Collaboration (SatNews)**

The United States and Saudi Arabia signed a framework agreement that opens new possibilities for cooperation with NASA in areas such as space science, exploration, aeronautics, space operations, education, and Earth science. The "Framework Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Cooperation in Aeronautics and the Exploration and Use of Airspace and Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes" establishes the overall legal framework to facilitate and strengthen mutually beneficial collaboration between the two countries.

## **NASA Cancels VIPER Lunar Rover (Space Policy Online)**

NASA has canceled the VIPER mission, a lunar rover project intended to search for ice at the Moon's south pole, due to development delays and cost overruns. Initially approved at \$433.5 million, the project's costs escalated to \$609.6 million, prompting termination. Despite supply chain issues and incremental delays, the completed rover had just begun environmental testing. Canceling VIPER saves NASA at least \$84 million, with potential additional savings. NASA will repurpose VIPER's components and consider proposals to fly it at no cost to the government. The Griffin lander, originally for VIPER, will now serve as a technology demonstrator.

## **Review Concludes Proposed NASA Budget Cuts Would End Chandra (SpaceNews)**

A NASA committee has determined that continuing the operation of the Chandra X-ray Observatory is not feasible under the reduced funding proposed in NASA's 2025 budget. The Operations Paradigm Change Review (OPCR) committee, formed to address budget shortfalls, found that a 40% cut would necessitate shutting down Chandra. Options to reduce Chandra's budget while maintaining some capabilities were also evaluated but would still require higher funding than proposed. Astronomers have strongly opposed these cuts, warning of significant impacts on scientific research. NASA plans to announce its final decisions on Chandra and Hubble operations in September.

## **The Space Development Agency and the Future of Defense Space Acquisitions (Center for Space Policy and Strategy)**

The Space Development Agency (SDA) utilizes a rapid acquisition model that is supported by Congress and DOD leadership. The agency benefits from substantial budgetary and acquisition flexibility. Future flexibility hinges on SDA's operational success as it targets unprecedented quantities and timelines in defense space acquisition. Please read the full paper [here](#).

### **Research Security Program Guidelines Have (Finally) Arrived (Akin Insights)**

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) issued new "[Guidelines for Research Security Programs at Covered Institutions](#)" on July 9, 2024. These guidelines aim to help federal agencies enforce certification requirements for institutions receiving over \$50 million annually in federal research and development (R&D) funding. Covered institutions must implement programs addressing cybersecurity, foreign travel security, research security training and export control training. While clarifying some requirements, the guidelines also leave key questions unanswered, particularly in cybersecurity. Full compliance is expected by mid-2026. The guidelines align with the Presidential Memorandum on U.S. Government-Supported R&D National Security Policy and the CHIPS and Science Act.

## **Federal Agency Space News**

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

[NASA Releases First Integrated Ranking of Civil Space Challenges](#) (July 23, 2024)

[NASA Sponsors New Research on Orbital Debris, Lunar Sustainability](#) (July 23, 2024)

[NASA Awards Launch Services Contract for NOAA's JPSS-4 Mission](#) (July 22, 2024)

[New Evidence Adds to Findings Hinting at Network of Caves on Moon](#) (July 18, 2024)

[NASA Ames Welcomes New Zealand Prime Minister, Celebrates Partnership](#) (July 18, 2024)

[NASA Ends VIPER Project, Continues Moon Exploration](#) (July 17, 2024)

[NASA Deputy Administrator Holds First Bilateral Engagement with KASA](#) (July 16, 2024)

[NASA to Provide Background on Space Station Deorbit Planning](#) (July 16, 2024)

[NASA Announces Leadership Changes](#) (July 18, 2024)

[NASA Signs US, Saudi Arabia Agreement for Civil Aeronautics, Space Collaboration](#) (July 16, 2024)

[NASA Marshall Engineers Unveil Versatile, Low-cost Hybrid Engine Testbed](#) (July 12, 2024)

[NASA Barge Preparations Underway for Artemis II Rocket Stage Delivery](#) (July 11, 2024)

[NASA's Hubble Traces Dark Matter in Dwarf Galaxy Using Stellar Motions](#) (July 11, 2024)

[NASA CubeSat Launches as Rideshare on ESA's First Ariane 6 Rocket](#) (July 10, 2024)

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

[NASA Study Advances Potential for Mars Habitation](#) (July 12, 2024)

[Space Force Announces Space Staff, International Partnership](#) (July 12, 2024)

[CMSSF Makes Inaugural CENTCOM Guardian Visit](#) (July 15, 2024)

[SpOC Stands Ready to Meet the Demands of Great Power Competition](#) (July 15, 2024)

[US Space Forces Korea Holds First Change of Command Ceremony](#) (July 17, 2024)

[Chief of Space Operations Advocates Refocus on Integrated Defense at Global Air, Space Chiefs' Conference](#) (July 18, 2024)

[Space Force Releases FY24 Selective Retention Bonus List](#) (July 22, 2024)

[Chief Master Sgt. of the Space Force Visits RAF Feltwell](#) (July 23, 2024)

[New Enlisted Leader Takes Responsibility at Space Forces Indo-Pacific](#) (July 24, 2024)

## Department of Defense

[Military Experts Highlight Space Opportunities, Threats at Aspen Conference](#) (July 18, 2024)

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

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## Comment Opportunities (RFIs)

[Information Collection: NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program Follow-Up Survey](#)

National Aeronautical and Space Administration

Close Date: August 2, 2024

[Centennial Challenges Program LunaRecycle Challenge Request for Information](#)

National Aeronautical and Space Administration

Close Date: August 2, 2024

[Request for Comments: Biosketch and Current and Pending Support Disclosure Policy](#)

National Aeronautical and Space Administration

Close Date: July 30, 2024

[Federal Acquisition Regulation: Prohibition on Certain Semiconductor Products and Services](#)

Department of Defense, National Aeronautical and Space Administration, & General Services Administration

Close Date: August 2, 2024

## Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

[ROSES 2024: D.20 Exoplanet Mass Measurement Program](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: February 26, 2025

[ROSES 2024: A.36 The Science of PACE](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Close Date: January 22, 2025

**NASA Technical Standards System (NTSS)**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Close Date: January 22, 2025

**ROSES 2024: A.21 TEMPO/ACX Science and Applications Team**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Close Date: October 18, 2024

**ROSES 2024: C.20 Interdisciplinary Consortia for Astrobiology Research**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Close Date: September 24, 2024

**Living with a Star Science**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Close Date: August 13, 2024

**Artificial Intelligence Applications in Heliophysics**

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

**Heliophysics U.S. Participating Investigator**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Close Date: January 29, 2025

**Partnership Opportunity Document - Small Explorer Spacecraft and Telescope Assembly for Expected 2024 NASA Astrophysics Small Explorer AO**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Close Date: August 21, 2024

**Multi-Center Administrative Support Services (MCASS)**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Close Date: August 14, 2024

**CIS Capability Studies III: Lunar Surface User Terminals & Network Orchestration and Management Systems (NextSTEP-2 BAA: Appendix Q)**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Close Date: August 7, 2024

## Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

*No NPRMs currently published.*

International



Articles and Quotes



### **China Reschedules Planetary Defense Mission for 2027 Launch (SpaceNews)**

China's asteroid deflection mission launch has been postponed to 2027, targeting asteroid 2015 XF261, instead of the previously announced 2025 launch date and asteroid 2019 VL5. Announced at the Committee on Space Research's (COSPAR) 45th Scientific Assembly, the mission involves two spacecraft: one to impact the asteroid at 10 km/s, and another to observe. This collision, set for April 2029, aims to demonstrate the kinetic impactor approach to planetary defense, similar to NASA's DART mission. China is also planning a global competition to name the mission and considering future concepts for asteroid deflection and space-based asteroid observatories.

### **France Funds Small Satellite Capture and Inspection Mission (SpaceNews)**

France has awarded a Thales Alenia Space-led consortium a contract for the DIANE mission to capture and inspect a small satellite. Set for launch before the end of 2028 under the European Robotic Orbital Support Services (EROSS) program, the mission aims to test rendezvous and servicing in low Earth orbit. The mission will use a robotic arm to inspect and control a spinning client satellite, simulating a target that has lost control. Partners include CNES, Bpifrance, Magellium Artal Group, DLR and Telespazio. Demonstrations will last 3-4 months, followed by five years of operational service

### **China Launches New Gaofen-11 High Resolution Spy Satellite (SpaceNews)**

China successfully launched its fifth Gaofen-11 high-resolution satellite, Gaofen-11 (05), into orbit on July 18 via a Long March 4B rocket from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center. This addition enhances the China High-resolution Earth Observation System (CHEOS), supporting land surveys, urban planning and disaster management. Gaofen-11 satellites are known for their advanced optical capabilities, providing imagery with approximately 10-centimeter resolution.

### **China Prepares to Launch New Long March 12 Rocket (SpaceNews)**

China is set to enhance its space launch capabilities with the upcoming first launch of the Long March 12 rocket. Developed by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology, the two-stage, kerosene-fueled Long March 12 has a payload capacity of 12,000 kg to low Earth orbit and 6,000 kg to sun-synchronous orbit. This launch will feature the new YF-100K engines and is expected as soon as August from the commercial space launch center in Wenchang, Hainan. The Long March 12 will support satellite constellations and pave the way for more ambitious projects, despite future competition from reusable methane launchers.

### **European Space Agency to Expand UK Presence (SpaceNews)**

The European Space Agency (ESA) is expanding its U.K. presence, with £2.1 million funding for space industry skill programs. Plans include a space quantum technologies lab and enhancing in-orbit servicing and manufacturing capabilities. Announced at the Farnborough Airshow, ESA aims to double its U.K. workforce to 200 by 2030, supporting space applications and telecommunications at its ECSAT center. Additionally, the U.K. Space Agency is funding five space-related training programs. With recent government support, the U.K. is poised to develop Europe's first small satellite launch capability, boosting jobs and economic growth.

### **South Korea's New Space Agency Outlines Plans (SpaceNews)**

South Korea's newly established space agency, the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA), is setting ambitious spaceflight goals. KASA, launched on May 27, aims to act as a "control tower" for South Korea's space activities, focusing on space transportation, satellites, exploration and aviation. Notable goals include lunar and Martian landers, and a spacecraft to observe the sun from the Earth-sun L4 Lagrange point. KASA plans to boost its space investment by 50% by 2027. At the COSPAR 45th Scientific Assembly, KASA highlighted plans for high-resolution imaging satellites and reusable launch vehicles. KASA is also enhancing international cooperation, including talks with NASA.

# Upcoming Space Events

There are no upcoming space events.



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## Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

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