

Akin

Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update



October 18, 2024

[Subscribe](#) | [Share](#)   

Good Afternoon!

The global space community came together in Milan this week for the International Astronautical Congress (IAC), China unveiled a rock from the dark side of the moon, and national space agency leaders outlined ambitious plans for future space exploration while expressing concerns regarding Earth and the space environment.

All this and more in this edition of the Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update.

On The Hill

Articles and Quotes

The House and Senate will return on Tuesday, November 12.

Introduced Legislation

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

Recent and Upcoming Congressional Hearings

October 21 - November 1, 2024

There are no upcoming congressional hearings.

In The Executive Branch

Articles and Quotes

U.S. Space Force Taps Commercial Satellites for Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief (SpaceNews)

The U.S. Space Force's Tactical Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Tracking (TacSRT) program leveraged its commercial satellite imagery and data analytics to aid disaster relief efforts following Hurricane Helene. TacSRT, a marketplace for requesting data from commercial satellite providers, gave U.S. Northern Command and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) with detailed analyses of road conditions and bridge statuses, facilitating emergency operations in the southeastern United States. This pilot initiative, recently praised as filling needed operational gaps by Chief of Space Operations Gen. Chance Saltzman, aims to enhance the responsiveness and effectiveness of ad-hoc intelligence needs.

NASA Launches Spacecraft to Gauge if Jupiter's Moon Europa Can Host Life (Reuters)

On October 14, 2024, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched the Europa Clipper spacecraft to investigate whether Jupiter's moon Europa can support life. The mission aims to study the moon's ice-covered, subsurface ocean and its potential habitability and is being conducted by the largest spacecraft NASA has ever built for a planetary mission. At a prelaunch briefing, NASA Associate Administrator Jim Free noted that Europa contains some of the most promising environments in our solar system for supporting life, though the mission will not be searching for any signs of biological life.

Debate over Space Guard Rekindles Amid Growing Reliance on Satellites for Disaster Relief (SpaceNews)

The recent devastation caused by hurricanes in the Southeast has reignited the debate over establishing a Space National Guard as part of the U.S. Space Force. Proponents, such as John Klein of Georgetown's Center for Security Studies, argue that a dedicated space unit could enhance disaster response capabilities, leveraging satellite communications for emergency operations. Disaster relief efforts typically fall within the purview of National Guard units. Critics, including the White House and senior Pentagon officials, caution that creating such a force would be costly and add unnecessary bureaucracy to Space Force efforts.

SDA Lays Out Timeline for Buying Nearly 200 More Satellites in 2025 (Air and Space Forces)

The Space Development Agency (SDA) has **outlined its procurement timeline** for Tranche 3 of its low-Earth orbit megaconstellation, aiming to acquire around 200 satellites in 2025. The megaconstellation, known as the Proliferated Warfighter Space Architecture, aims to support the Pentagon's joint all-domain command and control (JADC2) initiatives for both data transport and missile tracking. The procurement process will include multiple solicitations for different satellite capabilities, with draft solicitations expected in early 2025 and final solicitations by mid-year.

Federal Agency Space News

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA Seeks Innovative Ideas with Revamped Procurement Framework (October 16, 2024)

NASA to Embrace Commercial Sector, Fly Out Legacy Relay Fleet (October 16, 2024)

NASA Welcomes Estonia as Newest Artemis Accords Signatory (October 13, 2024)

NASA Activates Resources to Help Assess Impacts from Hurricane Milton (October 12, 2024)

[NASA Highlights Low Earth Orbit, Sustainability at Space Conference](#) (October 10, 2024)

[NASA Terminal Transmits First Laser Communications Uplink to Space](#) (October 9, 2024)

[NASA Seeks Innovative Artemis Lunar Logistics, Mobility Solutions](#) (October 8, 2024)

[Mark Sonoda: Leading NASA's Path to the Commercialization of Space](#) (October 7, 2024)

U.S. Space Force

[PNT Delta Redesignated as Mission Delta 31](#) (October 16, 2024)

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)

[Draft Text - Habitable Worlds Observatory System Technology Demonstrations and Mission Architecture Studies](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Oct 23, 2024

[Flight Dynamic Support Services \(FDSS III\) Extension](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Oct 31, 2024

[NASA Communications Research](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Nov 8, 2024

[Industry Supported Battery Passivation Techniques](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Nov 14, 2024

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

[Next Space Technologies for Exploration Partnerships \(NextSTEP-2\) Broad Agency Announcement \(BAA\) Appendix R: Lunar Logistics and Mobility Studies](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Oct 22, 2024

[DSS-33 Antenna and Pedestal at CDSCC](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Oct 25, 2024

[NASA Open Innovation Services 3 \(NOIS3\)](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Nov 1, 2024

[Spaceport Operations and Center Services \(SOCS\)](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Nov 8, 2024

SEWP VI Update

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Dec 18, 2024

ROSES 2024: D.21 U.S. Contributions to Ariel Preparatory Science

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Feb 4, 2025

Simulation and Advanced Software Services II (SASS II)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 12, 2025

Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

There were no new notices of proposed rules.

International



Articles and Quotes

The Moon, Mars and Space Junk: World Space Agency Heads Outline Grand Plans, but Also Concerns (Space.com)

At the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Milan, leaders of major national space agencies, including NASA, European Space Agency (ESA), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and China National Space Administration (CNSA), outlined ambitious plans for future space exploration while expressing concerns regarding Earth and the space environment. Josef Aschbacher, director of the ESA highlighted the Zero Debris Charter and ongoing asteroid deflection missions. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson discussed the Artemis missions and the recent SpaceX Starship test, while President of the JAXA Hiroshi Yamakawa and the ISRO's Sreedhara Somanath emphasized lunar and asteroid mission initiatives.

Dominican Republic Signs Artemis Accords (SpaceNews)

On October 7, 2024, the Dominican Republic became the 44th nation to sign the Artemis Accords, as announced by NASA. The signing, conducted by Sonia Guzmán, the Dominican Republic's ambassador to the United States, occurred without any formal ceremony published by either NASA or the Dominican Republic. NASA officials commented on the nation's growing interest in using space and launch technologies, including weighing developing their own commercial spaceport, in solidifying their long-term economic growth plans. The Artemis Accords outline principles for safe and sustainable space activities, building on the Outer Space Treaty.

China Showcases Lunar Reach as Space Powers Meet Without Russia (Reuters)

On October 14, 2024, at the IAC in Milan, China unveiled a rock sample from the moon's far side—the first such exploit and evidence of Beijing's growing status as a space-power. The IAC, a longstanding venue for international space cooperation, occurred in the absence of traditional space power Russia amid tensions with the West. Among the record 7,200 technical abstracts submitted to the Congress, lunar exploration topics were among the most prominent. The IAC this year thus marks both increasing prevalence of the space exploration and utilization sector but also heightened tensions among global space powers.

France, Germany Join US Space Warfighting Plan ‘Olympic Defender’ ***(Breaking Defense)***

On October 14, 2024, France and Germany joined the U.S. Space Command’s Operation Olympic Defender, a multinational initiative aimed at optimizing space operations and enhancing the resilience of space-based systems. The program focuses on improving mission assurance, strengthening deterrence against hostile actors, and reducing space debris. Created in 2013, Olympic Defender was updated in 2018 to allow for allied participation. Australia, Britain and Canada, who joined in 2020, as well as newest member New Zealand, participated in the two nations’ induction ceremonies.

Xichang to Build Commercial Spaceport to Boost China’s Launch Capacity ***(SpaceNews)***

China’s Xichang Satellite Launch Center is set to build a commercial spaceport to enhance the country’s launch capacity. This initiative, a collaboration between Liangshan Prefecture and Sichuan Development (Holding) Co., Ltd., aims to attract leading aerospace companies and develop a space industrial cluster. Chinese officials have described the spaceport as essential to the government’s aerospace initiatives. The spaceport will support the launch of reusable, medium-lift vehicles from Chinese commercial space companies like Landspace, iSpace and Space Pioneer. China’s launch rate has risen rapidly in recent years, from 22 launches in 2016 to 67 in 2023. Initiatives like the Xichang spaceport mark China’s fierce efforts to grow its competitiveness in commercial space technology.

Upcoming Space Events

Silicon Valley Space Week

Satellite Innovation and MilSat Symposium

October 21-24, 2024

Advancing IDEA in Planetary Science Conference

Lunar and Planetary Institute

October 21-25, 2024

Schriever Spacepower Series: Brig. Gen. Mastalir

Mitchell Institute

October 22, 2024

NASA Heliophysics Advisory Committee

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

October 22-24, 2024

Planetary Science Technology Symposium

Lunar Surface Innovation Consortium

October 22-24, 2024

NASA Heliophysics/Astrophysics Town Hall

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

October 23, 2024

Annual Space Diplomacy Symposium

University of Washington

October 25, 2024

2024 Von Braun Space Exploration Symposium

American Astronautical Society

October 28-30, 2024

Steering Committee for Human Exploration of Mars

National Academies

October 28-30, 2024

Lunar Exploration Analysis Group Meeting

Lunar and Planetary Institute

October 28-30, 2024

TechCrunch Disrupt 2024 - Space Stage

Aerospace Corporation

October 28-30, 2024

New Worlds 2024

The Earthlight Foundation

November 1-2, 2024

Reinventing Space 2024

British Interplanetary Society

November 11-13

Beyond Earth Symposium 2024

Beyond Earth Institute

November 12-13, 2024

Lunar Surface Innovation Consortium Meeting

Lunar Surface Innovation Consortium

November 13-15, 2024

i-SAIRAS 2024

CSIRO

November 19-21, 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

Learn more about our Space Law & Policy practice.



Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

Authors



Michael C. Mineiro
Space Policy and Regulation
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4068



Thomas J. McCarthy
International Trade
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4047



Carlos M. Bermudez
Corporate
[Email](#)
+1 310.728.3320



Jennifer L. Richter
Telecom, Media & Technology
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4524



Hans C. Rickhoff
Lobbying & Public Policy
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4145



Steve A. Rowings
Telecom, Media & Technology
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4412



Marta A. Thompson
Government Contracts
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4055



Lamar Smith
Lobbying & Public Policy
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4031

Contributors



Chase Hamilton
International Trade
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4018



Sharanya Sriram
Telecom, Media & Technology
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4278



Brandon Brodwater
Lobbying & Public Policy
[Email](#)
+1 202.416.5127

informational use only; it does not constitute legal advice and should not be used as such. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Receipt of this information does not create an attorney-client relationship. Do not act upon this information without seeking professional counsel. All content is presented by Akin and cannot be copied or rebroadcasted without express written consent. Akin is the practicing name of Akin Gump LLP, a New York limited liability partnership authorized and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority under number 267321. A list of the partners is available for inspection at Eighth Floor, Ten Bishops Square, London E1 6EG. For more information about Akin Gump LLP, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and other associated entities under which the Akin network operates worldwide, please see our [Legal Notices](#) page.

[Update Your Preferences](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#) | [Legal Notices](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

This email was sent by: 2001 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-1037