

Akin™

Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update



August 9, 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

Senate Spending Bill Pushes Back on Proposed NASA Mission Cuts (SpaceNews)

The Senate Appropriations Committee's bill for fiscal year 2025 aligns closely with the administration's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) budget request, allocating \$25.434 billion, \$50 million above the administration's ask. It increases exploration funding by \$30 million and adds \$10 million each for science and space operations. However, the bill challenges NASA's plans to cancel or reduce missions, including the OSAM-1 satellite servicing mission and the Geospace Dynamics Constellation. It also restores funding for Heliophysics, the GeoCarb greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring instrument, and the Hubble and Chandra telescopes.

Senate Committee Adds More Fighters, Boosts USAF and USSF Budget (Air & Space Forces Magazine)

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved an \$851.7 billion budget for the Pentagon for fiscal year 2025, a 2.3% increase from the House's earlier allocation. This budget aims to strengthen U.S. military capabilities across all domains, focusing on deterring China and Russia. It includes funding for nearly 500 additional aircraft, six more F-15EX fighters and the Next Generation Adaptive Propulsion engine. The bill addresses concerns over Chinese and Russian advances in air, space and nuclear technologies, with significant investments in counter-drone systems and the Space Force.

Introduced Legislation

No Legislative Space Updates.

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

Recent and Upcoming Congressional Hearings

August 12 - August 23, 2024

There are no upcoming congressional hearings.

In The Executive Branch



Articles and Quotes

Space Industry Considers Implications of Harris as Presidential Candidate (*SpaceNews*)

The sudden ascendance of Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee for president will likely have at least a modest impact on space policy. The shift highlights Harris' role in space policy as the chair of the National Space Council during the Biden administration.

'Space Aficionado' Kamala Harris Aims for Moonshot Presidency (*Politico*)

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump share a commitment to returning astronauts to the moon, reflecting a bipartisan continuation of space policy. As chair of the U.S. National Space Council, Harris has been an active advocate for the Artemis program, initially launched under Trump. This initiative aims for a lunar landing after 2026 and promotes international collaboration through the Artemis Accords, countering China's lunar ambitions. Harris' diplomatic efforts have garnered significant international support, with 42 countries joining the Accords. Despite a strong focus on space, experts predict continuity rather than major changes in U.S. space policy under a potential Harris administration.

The Space Report 2024 Q2: Record Launches, NASA's Artemis Push, Cleaner Rocket Fuels, NOAA Satellite Tech (*Space Foundation*)

The Space Report 2024 Q2 reveals a record 126 rocket launches in the first half of 2024, driven by increased demand for communications satellites and new launch vehicles like the Vulcan and H3. NASA is prioritizing its Artemis lunar program, cutting jobs and other projects amid a tight budget. Efforts to develop greener rocket fuels are gaining momentum to address environmental concerns. Additionally, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES-19) satellite aims to enhance weather forecasting. The U.S. Space Force is expanding commercial space partnerships for military use, highlighting a dynamic period of growth and innovation in the global space economy.

NASA Says Starliner Astronauts Could Return With SpaceX—Next Year (*Wall Street Journal*)

NASA and Boeing are debating the safety of the Starliner spacecraft for returning astronauts Barry Wilmore and Sunita Williams from the International Space Station (ISS). Boeing asserts Starliner's readiness, but NASA is considering using SpaceX as a backup due to recent safety concerns. SpaceX might launch a crew vehicle with open seats in September, potentially bringing back the astronauts early next year. This shift follows thruster failures and helium leaks in Starliner. NASA plans to decide by mid-month. This situation underscores ongoing challenges for Boeing, which faces scrutiny and financial losses in its Starliner program.

United Launch Alliance and SpaceX Get \$1.8 Billion Boost in Space Force Contracts (SpaceNews)

The U.S. Space Force has increased its launch contracts with United Launch Alliance (ULA) and SpaceX by nearly \$1.8 billion due to a rise in projected missions. ULA's contract value will grow by \$1.1 billion to \$4.5 billion, while SpaceX's contract will increase by \$661 million to \$4 billion. This adjustment comes under the National Security Space Launch (NSSL) Phase 2 program, now expected to include 49 missions, up from 34. The program ensures reliable access to space for national security payloads, with Blue Origin anticipated to compete in Phase 3 starting fiscal year 2025.

Pentagon Advisory Panel Urges Integration of Commercial Space Tech for Military Use (SpaceNews)

A Pentagon advisory panel urges the U.S. military to adopt more commercial space technologies for enhanced defense capabilities. The Defense Science Board's (DSB) study, commissioned by Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering Heidi Shyu, emphasizes integrating commercial space capabilities into national security frameworks. Chaired by Mandy Vaughn and retired General Ellen Pawlikowski, the panel highlights the fast-evolving space sector and the need for the Department of Defense (DOD) to leverage these advancements. Key recommendations include creating an end-to-end integration framework, evaluating commercial services, building trust with providers, monitoring adversary use and considering market maturity in decisions.

NASA Retaining Plans to Select a Single Artemis Lunar Rover (SpaceNews)

NASA is sticking with its plan to select only one company to develop an Artemis lunar rover despite recent challenges in other lunar exploration programs. NASA awarded feasibility study contracts to Intuitive Machines, Lunar Outpost and Venturi Astrolab to mature their rover designs for the Artemis missions. One company will be chosen to build and demonstrate the rover on the moon, which NASA will rent under a services contract. Budget constraints prevent NASA from supporting more than one company for the rover demonstration phase, although this approach differs from other Artemis program services contracts that typically involve multiple providers.

US Army Seeks to Expand Space Expertise Among Soldiers (SpaceNews)

The Space and Missile Defense Command is backing an initiative to create a dedicated space career field for enlisted troops. Currently, only officers have a career field for space operations, and enlisted soldiers serving in space-related positions come from other career paths such as engineering, air defense, signals or intelligence. The proposed specialty role would allow soldiers to build and maintain expertise in space operations throughout their careers, rather than rotating back to their original branches after a single tour. This initiative is part of a broader effort to establish an Army space branch, which has gained renewed momentum after previously slowing down due to the establishment of the U.S. Space Force.

Space Force Offers Up to \$180,000 for Select Guardians to Reenlist (Air & Space Forces Magazine)

The Space Force has increased reenlistment bonuses up to \$180,000 for certain career fields, an \$80,000 increase from previous years, as part of broader efforts to improve retention. The seven eligible fields include cyber operations and space systems, with bonuses varying based on a Guardian's service duration and zone multiplier. The incentives are designed to retain personnel with high-demand skills, particularly in cybersecurity, amidst strong competition from the private sector. The updated policy allows for reenlistment up to 12 months before service expiration and extends service caps, offering more flexibility and higher potential bonuses.

Federal Agency Space News

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

[NASA's Stennis Space Center Announces New Deputy Director](#) (August 5, 2024)

[NASA Ames to Host Supercomputing Resources for UC Berkeley Researchers](#) (August 2, 2024)

[NASA Shares Its SpaceX Crew-10 Assignments for Space Station Mission](#) (August 1, 2024)

[Exploring Deep Space: NASA Announces 2025 RASC-AL Competition](#) (August 1, 2024)

[NASA's First-Ever Quantum Memory Made at Glenn Research Center](#) (July 31, 2024)

[NASA's DART Mission Sheds New Light on Target Binary Asteroid System](#) (July 30, 2024)

[NASA to Highlight 13th Space Station Research, Development Conference](#) (July 29, 2024)

[NASA Returns to Arctic Studying Summer Sea Ice Melt](#) (July 26, 2024)

[NASA's Perseverance Rover Scientists Find Intriguing Mars Rock](#) (July 25, 2024)

[NASA Supports Burst Test for Orbital Reef Commercial Space Station](#) (July 25, 2024)

[NASA and IBM Collaborate to Develop INDUS Large Language Models for Advanced Science Research](#) (June 25, 2024)

U.S. Space Force

[STARCOM, Delta 10, Holds Change of Command at Patrick SFB](#) (August 7, 2024)

[USSPACECOM Commander, CSEL Reinforce Partnerships in SOUTHCOM AOR](#) (August 6, 2024)

[DAF Releases Latest US Space Force Field Grade Officer Promotions](#) (August 1, 2024)

[Space Delta 6 Guardians Embrace Community Mindset](#) (July 30, 2024)

[Dalton Emphasizes DAF Priorities, Need to Modernize, On-Time Budgets](#) (July 30, 2024)

[New Vice Chair Selected for DAF Scientific Advisory Board](#) (July 29, 2024)

[AI-Powered Agile Talent Identification Systems Support Joint Force](#) (July 26, 2024)

[DAF Stands Up Integrated Capabilities Office to Advance Operational Imperatives](#) (July 25, 2024)

[USSF Astronaut, Team Meet Launch-Supporting Service Members](#) (July 25, 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)

There were no new comment opportunities.

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

Living With a Star Science

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 13, 2024

Multi-Center Administrative Support Services (MCASS)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 14, 2024

Artificial Intelligence Applications in Heliophysics

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 20, 2024

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

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 21, 2024

2024 HERO Appendix E: NASA Human Research Program Flagship2 Opportunity

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 26, 2024

ROSES 2024: C.20 Interdisciplinary Consortia for Astrobiology Research

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Sep 24, 2024

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

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Oct 18, 2024

MUREP Earth System Science Research (MUREP ESSR)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Oct 30, 2024

NASA Technical Standards System (NTSS)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Jan 22, 2025

ROSES 2024: A.36 the Science of PACE

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Jan 22, 2025

Heliophysics U.S. Participating Investigator

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Jan 29, 2025

ROSES 2024: D.20 Exoplanet Mass Measurement Program

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Feb 26, 2025

Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

There were no new notices of proposed rules.

International

Articles and Quotes

Chinese Scientists Outline Major Cislunar Space Infrastructure Project *(SpaceNews)*

Chinese scientists propose a comprehensive cislunar space infrastructure to support lunar exploration, boost China's space industry and encourage international collaboration. The plan includes a phased constellation of satellites for data communication, navigation and space situational monitoring, covering ground-based, near-Earth, cislunar, lunar surface and deep space users. Key phases involve deploying satellites in elliptical frozen orbits and at strategic Lagrange points. The project aims to support China's lunar missions, including the Queqiao constellation for lunar exploration, fostering a cislunar economy and enhancing global cooperation. This initiative aligns with China's broader goals of advancing space technology and establishing lunar governance.

China Launches First Satellites for Thousand Sails Megaconstellation *(SpaceNews)*

China successfully launched 18 satellites for the Thousand Sails low Earth orbit communications megaconstellation on August 6. A Long March 6A rocket from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center achieved this feat, with plans for 1,296 satellites by 2025. This initiative, led by Shanghai Spacecom Satellite Technology (SSST), aims for global internet coverage, challenging U.S. projects like Starlink. Supported by significant funding and government backing, Thousand Sails is part of China's commercial space expansion, including new launch vehicles and satellite technologies. The first batch of SSST's satellites marks China's 35th orbital launch in 2024, underscoring the nation's ambitious space endeavors.

China Launches Second Secretive High Orbit Internet Satellite *(SpaceNews)*

China launched the second geostationary communications satellite, High Orbit Internet Satellite-02, on August 1. The launch, using a Long March 3B rocket, was declared a success by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC). However, details about the satellite's purpose remain undisclosed. This follows the launch of the first such satellite in February. The satellite is part of China's broader efforts to enhance high-throughput communication capabilities, aiming to exceed 500 Gbps by the end of the "14th Five-Year Plan" (2021-2025). Additionally, China plans numerous low Earth orbit satellite Internet constellations and further launches in 2024.

Upcoming Space Events

There are no upcoming space events.



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Questions?

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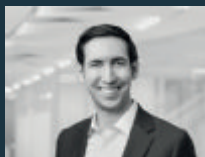


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