



Space Commerce Highlights

News from the Office of Space Commerce

January 2025

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From the Acting Director

Colleagues and friends -

It's a privilege to be writing to you as OSC's Acting Director. Over the last year and half, I've worked closely with our team to advance American leadership in the global commercial space industry.

During this period of transition, we remain focused on achieving this office's responsibilities - including serving as an advocate and facilitator for the U.S. space industry, providing light-touch regulation in support of private remote sensing, as well as operating the U.S. civil space situational awareness capability for spaceflight safety. We're looking forward to working with incoming leadership to execute on these important missions.

The year 2025 stands to be a seminal year for the commercial space sector, and more OSC engagements are on the horizon - including a February public seminar exploring the 'circular space economy,' and our next Advisory Committee on Excellence in Space public meeting, scheduled for early March.

I look forward to our continuing work together!



Janice Starzyk
Acting Director (Deputy Director), NOAA OSC

Stakeholder Engagements



On Thursday, February 13, the Office of Space Commerce and National Institute of Standards and Technology are hosting a hybrid event (virtual and in-person at the Commerce Department's Herbert C. Hoover Building) to explore the "circular space economy."

This innovative approach aims to utilize space-based resources sustainably by minimizing waste and maximizing the reuse and recycling of materials in space operations.

Attending this event is an opportunity for policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and entrepreneurs to engage in shaping the future of space sustainability. The event will showcase cutting-edge advancements, including in-orbit recycling technologies, sustainable satellite manufacturing practices, and innovative policies for managing shared space resources. Participants will gain valuable insights into how the circular space economy can tackle critical challenges, unlocking new opportunities for economic resilience and long-term sustainability in the final frontier.

For more information, and to register, visit the event's webpage [here](#).



Advisory Committee on Excellence in Space Public Meeting - March 5

The next public meeting of the Advisory Committee on Excellence in Space (ACES) is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5.

More information, including agenda updates and links to register for virtual public participation, will be made available on the meeting's webpage [here](#).

Members of the public may submit written comments for this meeting via email, to space.commerce@noaa.gov. Comments are requested no later than March 3.



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Across Commerce

Commerce Department Publishes Space Accomplishments Report



On January 14, then-Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves released a report on the Commerce Department's commercial space accomplishments during his and then-Secretary Raimondo's tenure.

The report covers many achievements across multiple bureaus of the Department, including those of NOAA and the Office of Space Commerce.

[Download report as PDF](#)

[View as text at commerce.gov](#)



February 13 Virtual Event on NTIA/FCC Satellite Coordination

On Thursday, February 13, from 2:00 - 3:00 pm (ET), the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will host a virtual information session focusing on satellite coordination processes involving NTIA and the Federal Communications Commission. The session will feature tutorials by coordination experts from the two agencies. This information session is designed to help customers navigate the coordination process more easily and productively.

More information about this event - including the agenda, speakers, and to register - is available online [here](#).

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Cybersecurity Executive Order Includes Direction on Space Systems

On January 16, President Biden signed [Executive Order 14144 on Strengthening and Promoting Innovation in the Nation's Cybersecurity](#). The order includes specific measures to protect space systems.

Section 3, "Improving the Cybersecurity of Federal Systems," calls for agencies to continually verify that Federal space systems have requisite cybersecurity capabilities. Specifically, it directs that:

- USGS, NOAA, and NASA review the civil space contract requirements in the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) and recommend updates to civil space cybersecurity requirements and relevant contract language.
- The FAR Council review the recommended contract language and take steps to amend the FAR.
- The National Cyber Director inventory space ground systems owned, managed, or operated by civil agencies, identify those considered major information systems, and recommend how to improve their cyber defenses and oversight.
- OMB take steps to help ensure these space ground systems comply with OMB cybersecurity requirements.

Section 8, "National Security Systems and Debilitating Impact Systems," includes guidance to help protect space national security systems with cybersecurity measures that keep pace with emerging threats. It directs the Committee on National Security Systems to review and update policies and

guidance regarding space system cybersecurity, and to identify and address requirements to implement cyber defenses on government-procured space national security systems.

View the Executive Order's fact sheet at [bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov](https://www.bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov).

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Publishes Space Sector Patent Report

In January, the Department of Commerce's U.S. Patent and Trademark Office published a report, "[Privatizing the space economy: A perspective on U.S. government and private sector participation based on patents.](#)"

This report offers a comprehensive and detailed definition of space technologies to analyze growth in U.S. patent applications disclosing space inventions. In it, USPTO analyzes collected patent documents to reveal the volume and growth in U.S. patent applications that disclose space inventions. The report uses information within the patent documents to provide a perspective on U.S. federal and private-sector participation in U.S. space patenting between 1976 and 2023.

Among the report's conclusions, it found that:

- The number of patent applications disclosing space inventions grew by 144% between 2003 and 2023, which is about four times larger than the growth rate for all patent applications.
- Between 1976 and 2023, individuals and organizations from the United States were granted the largest number of space patents, at 7,895. Owners located in Europe held the second largest, at 1,577, followed by Asia (794), and the rest of the world (204).





- The number of U.S. space patents associated with the U.S. federal government has increased over time, with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as the top source of support.
- Nearly 16% of U.S. space patents issued in 2023 were associated with the U.S. federal government, over seven times larger than the government's involvement in all patent applications.
- Between 1976 and 1993, the share of space patents from the private sector without the support of the government was 65%, rising to nearly 84% in the following 30 years.
- Small companies, universities, and nonprofits are accounting for a growing share, reaching around 40% of all U.S. space patents in 2023.
- The private sector without the support of the government dominates U.S.-based patenting in position, navigation, and timing as well as for satellite communications, whereas the U.S. federal government is more likely to be involved with space transportation and human space habitation inventions.

The report may be accessed online [here](#).

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Welcome New OSC Teammates!

In January, OSC welcomed new members to our team:

- Cody Knipfer (Senior Advisor, Front Office)
- Drake Gates (TraCSS Ops Shift Lead, Space Operations Division)
- James Mussmann (Licensing Officer, Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs Division)

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OSC in the News

- *SpaceNews*: **US space traffic system upgrade still targeting 2025 amid bid protest**
- *SpaceNews*: **Space to grow: American leadership in space commerce** (op-ed by then-Deputy Secretary Graves)



Looking Ahead

OSC staff will be featured participants in these upcoming events. Interested in meeting with us while there? Submit a **meeting request!**

- February 4:** **Washington Space Business Roundtable** (Washington, DC)
- February 12:** **Commercial Space Conference** (Washington, DC)
- February 20-21:** **Miami Space Summit** (Miami, FL)
- February 23:** **Business of Space Conference** (Huntsville, AL)
- February 26:** **ASCENDxTexas** (League City, TX)
- February 27:** **Global Space and Technology Convention and Exhibition**
(Singapore)

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