



# ***Space Commerce Highlights***

## **News from the Office of Space Commerce**

### **May 2025**

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### ***From the Acting Director***

Colleagues and friends,

May has been a month of milestones for the NOAA Office of Space Commerce, especially in our work on space situational awareness and space traffic coordination.

We announced that, as of May 20, our Traffic Coordination System for Space has implemented "Program Increment 1.2," offering beta user participants of the system on-demand screening of operational ephemerides. With this capability, which allows for conjunction analysis results within minutes of a request - rather than the hours it's historically taken - we are considerably advancing space safety in line with our responsibilities under Space Policy Directive-3.

Meanwhile, our policy team spent weeks in Vienna participating in the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space's Legal Subcommittee. There, we had robust discussions on - and made tangible progress toward - the global coordination of space traffic.



As always, I look forward to our continuing work together!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice".

*Janice Starzyk*  
*Acting Director (Deputy Director), NOAA OSC*



## **TraCSS Implements Program Increment 1.2: *On-Demand Ephemerides Screening and Bulk Submissions Now Live***

As of May 20, 2025, the Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS) has implemented **Program Increment 1.2** for its beta users. This release introduces on-demand screening of operational ephemerides and enables bulk submission capabilities — ideal for operators of large satellite constellations.

As an Agile software development program, TraCSS continues to deliver iterative upgrades that add new capabilities in preparation for the migration of users from the Department of Defense. The initial version, released in September 2024, distributed TraCSS-generated Conjunction Data Messages (CDMs) to beta users via the Space-Track.org interface. Subsequent updates enabled direct CDM distribution through TraCSS APIs.

The TraCSS team is preparing to expand user participation in advance of a full production release scheduled for early 2026.



With this latest update, beta user satellite operators can now submit ephemerides to TraCSS at any time and receive conjunction analysis results within two-to-five minutes. This “on-demand screening” marks a significant advancement. Operators of large constellations can also submit thousands of ephemerides at once via “bulk submissions,” greatly enhancing space situational awareness and safety.

“The implementation of Program Increment 1.2 is a major milestone for the TraCSS program and the evolving state-of-the-art in U.S. space situational awareness capabilities,” said Janice Starzyk, Acting Director of the Office of Space Commerce.



## TraCSS Expands CRADA Efforts with SpaceX

TraCSS is expanding its Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with SpaceX, **announced in January 2024**, to incorporate Launch Collision Avoidance (LCOLA) screenings into ongoing work on advanced screening techniques.

This enhancement will enable SpaceX and the Office of Space Commerce to harness modern tools in developing innovative approaches to LCOLA screening.

The effort aligns with the goals of **Space Policy Directive-3** to advance the state of space situational awareness technologies.

Additionally, TraCSS is working to onboard SpaceX as a beta user in preparation for the system's production launch in January 2026. TraCSS continues to lead the way in shaping the future of civil space traffic coordination.



## ***Stakeholder Engagements***

### **OSC Delivers U.S. Statement on Space Traffic Management at UN COPUOS**

One of the Office of Space Commerce's most important jobs is advancing the U.S. commercial space sector's global leadership.

In May 2025, the Office of Space Commerce joined the United States delegation at the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)'s Legal Subcommittee.

There, OSC's Director of Policy, Advocacy, and International Affairs, Gabriel Swiney, met with international partners to discuss how to open markets and provide predictability for the global space industry.



On May 9, Gabriel delivered the **U.S. statement on space traffic management** – highlighting the importance of space situational awareness cooperation for safe space operations:

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The number of objects in space is increasing rapidly, and reliable space situational awareness information and services are necessary to support global spaceflight safety and sustainability.

This is necessary to enable the continued growth of a vibrant commercial space industry and ensure ongoing access to the many practical benefits provided by space systems. International coordination, including the continuing focus on the implementation of the Committee's space debris mitigation and long-term sustainability guidelines, is critical in this regard, and this Subcommittee should continue to promote best practices, guidelines, and recommended principles that reflect operational realities.

The United States is committed to continuing its longstanding role as a global space situational awareness provider.

The U.S. Department of Defense continues to share space situational awareness (SSA) information and services with satellite owners and operators worldwide, both governmental and non-governmental, and non-U.S. entities, to improve the safety of space flight. Much of this information is available on a free and publicly available website at “space-track.org.”

As we transition this responsibility from the U.S. Department of Defense to the U.S. Department of Commerce, the new Traffic Coordination System for Space (or “TraCSS”) will leverage data from operators, governments, commercial, academic, and international sources. TraCSS will provide space situational awareness information and services to spacecraft operators around the world in support of spaceflight safety, and we anticipate it will begin operations later this year.



As the United States is developing TraCSS, many other nations and organizations around the world are also developing or improving their own space situational awareness capabilities. The United States is committed to maintaining an open and transparent system that enables global coordination with other space situational awareness providers and ensures reliable and efficient services to global spacecraft operators.

This type of close coordination among independent national and regional SSA systems will be necessary to minimize the potential for spacecraft operators to receive conflicting information about potential conjunction events. It also lays the foundation for future space traffic coordination efforts, in which spacecraft operators should have consistent information on the likelihood and nature of potential conjunctions, allowing for a safe and efficient resolution of issues. This is articulated in the [global vision for space situational awareness](#) developed by the U.S. Department of Commerce, which is available to all delegations online.

We will continue to engage with international partners both bilaterally and multilaterally, including here at UNCOPUOS, to enable cooperation between national and regional space situational awareness systems in operation or development around the world. We hope that UNCOPUOS and its Subcommittees can find a home for these conversations as soon as possible.

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## OSC's "Standards Corner"

### Space Standards

Welcome to OSC's "Standards Corner!" Interested U.S. stakeholders may participate in standards development working groups and be members of the U.S. Technical Advisory Committee for ISO Technical Committee 20. The no-fee membership provides the opportunity to shape standards development. Reach out to [dianne.poster@noaa.gov](mailto:dianne.poster@noaa.gov) if you are interested in more information.

### OSC Joins ISO Technical Committee Spring Plenary Meetings

OSC served as a member of the U.S. Technical Advisory Committee and coordinator for U.S. government input to spring plenary meetings of the ISO Technical Committee 20 (Aircraft and Space Vehicles), Subcommittee 14 (Space Systems and Operations) from May 19-23. They joined more than 100 attendees representing eighteen participating and 12 observing countries at the Tsukuba International Congress Center, hosted by the Japan Space Agency (JAXA).

Discussion centered on the standardization of the design, production, and management of crewed and un-crewed space systems and the disposal of space systems. OSC representatives focused their interventions to establish consensus for standards on space debris mitigation, traffic coordination, safety measures, and space safety regulations. In the meeting, attendees decided to initiate revisions to the international standards for space debris mitigation requirements with updates pertinent to today's commercial space industry.



Supporting global standards which are in-line with American values allows the U.S. space industry to compete on equal footing in the global market.

*ISO TC20/SC14 Working Group 7 (Orbital Debris) members at Tsukuba, Japan, May 24, 2025. WG7 is led by Dr. Headly Stokes (UK, 3rd from left). Dr. Dianne Poster, OSC, front row, left.*



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