



Space Commerce Highlights

News from the Office of Space Commerce

July 2024

We welcome your feedback at: space.commerce@noaa.gov.

From the Director

Colleagues & friends,

July was action-packed here at the Office of Space Commerce. From a week spent in Tokyo - participating in the SPACETIDE conference, the Secure World Foundation's Summit on Space Sustainability, and meeting with Japanese industry and government representatives - to our co-sponsorship of the Diverse Dozen at the ASCEND conference in Las Vegas, the OSC team has been hard at work collaborating with stakeholders across the globe.

As I've expressed many times, our office likewise values our collaboration with you: we're always open to your inputs and feedback. Last month, we held public listening sessions on the proposed "user agreement" and "data sharing policy" that our Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS) will use; and to solicit feedback on our regulations for licensing and overseeing U.S. commercial remote sensing. Many more sessions are still to come.

August is already full of opportunities to engage with me and my team. Whether it be through your proposals for our just-released RFP for the TraCSS "Presentation Layer" - a critical component of our system - to meeting with you at the Small Satellite Conference, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with, and support for, the commercial space industry.



With thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. P. ...".



Learn more about the TraCSS program at: www.space.commerce.gov/tracss
OSC inbox for industry engagement on TraCSS: tracss.commerce@noaa.gov

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Office of Space Commerce Releases RFP for TraCSS Presentation Layer

On August 1, the Office of Space Commerce released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Presentation Layer (user interface and user experience) of the Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS). The final RFP reflects feedback received on the [draft RFP](#) released on July 18.

The Government seeks to leverage mature commercial capabilities for the TraCSS Presentation Layer, which consists of web-based graphical user interfaces (GUI) and a data products service to generate formatted human-readable data products.

The Government also requires the contractor to build the TraCSS website to present the GUIs and data products. The GUI, data products, and website will utilize TraCSS application programming interfaces (APIs) and gateway business logic defined by the TraCSS System Integrator to store and retrieve data.

View the [RFP at SAM.gov](#). Responses are due no later than August 13, 2024.

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TraCSS Listening Session on “Proposed User Agreement and Data Sharing Policy”

On July 9th, OSC held its fifth TraCSS public [listening session](#). During this session, stakeholders had the opportunity to provide feedback on a proposed “user agreement” and components of a data sharing policy that TraCSS may use.

To register in TraCSS, satellite operators will be required to agree to the TraCSS User Agreement and provide contact information and spacecraft data. Satellite operators will be required to agree to TraCSS use and sharing of contact information, and select between three license options for TraCSS use and sharing of spacecraft data.

Documents from this session, as well as other TraCSS listening sessions, may be found on the TraCSS [“Resources” webpage](#).

View a recording of this listening session on Youtube, [here](#).

Stakeholder Engagements

Due August 8 - Comments & Feedback on “Licensing of Private Remote Sensing Space Systems”

The Office of Space Commerce’s Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA) division is seeking public comment and feedback on **15 CFR part 960**, the regulations used for the “licensing of private remote sensing space systems.”



The regulations at 15 CFR part 960 were revised in its entirety in 2020, and the new regulations became effective on July 20, 2020. In the approximately four years since the effective date of the new regulations, CRSRA has identified elements of the regulations that, upon implementation, yielded unexpected consequences or high administrative burdens to both CRSRA and the licensee.

On July 25, CRSRA held a **virtual public listening session**, during which stakeholders expressed their views, perspectives, and experiences with understanding and meeting the requirements of the regulations.

CRSRA continues to solicit input and feedback on challenges, concerns, and recommendations pertaining to the regulations and their implementation, including during pre-application consultation, application and license issuance, license sustainment, and license transfer and termination. Written comments, including those summarizing or elaborating upon spoken remarks, may be submitted no later than Thursday, August 8. Interested parties may submit comments even if they did not participate in the listening session.

Comments may be submitted via email to space.commerce@noaa.gov.

For more information, including further background and specifically requested feedback, visit the OSC listening session webpage [here](#) and the Federal Register notice [here](#).

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OSC Speaks Sustainability in Japan

Led by Office of Space Commerce Director Richard DalBello, the OSC team spent the week of July 8-12 in Tokyo, Japan, engaging with international stakeholders on space sustainability issues, including the need for global space situational awareness (SSA) coordination.



OSC spoke during multiple sessions at two consecutive conferences – SPACETIDE 2024 and the Secure World Foundation’s Summit on Space Sustainability, the latter of which OSC was a co-sponsor.

At SPACETIDE, Director DalBello gave a keynote on the topic of space sustainability, while OSC’s Director of Policy, Advocacy, and International Gabriel Swiney spoke on a panel on space commercialization policy. During the Summit for Space Sustainability, OSC’s international space situational awareness expert, Mariel Borowitz, spoke on a panel discussing potential cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and development related to SSA.



In the margins of the conferences, OSC met with the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency, Japan Self-Defense Forces, and other space agencies and think tanks to promote collaborative approaches to SSA information sharing and space debris remediation.

OSC’s participation in these events are part of our continuing campaign to socialize our **“Vision for Global SSA Coordination”** with international partners and stakeholders. With the Traffic Coordination System for Space, the Office of Space Commerce is committed to maintaining an open and transparent system that enables global coordination with other SSA providers and ensures reliable and efficient services to global spacecraft operators.

OSC Sponsors the ASCEND Diverse Dozen

The Office of Space Commerce attended the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics' (AIAA) ASCEND conference on July 30-August 1. To promote inclusion and representation in the space community, OSC co-sponsored the **Diverse Dozen (D12) event programming** at ASCEND. Alongside D12 founder Moriba Jah, OSC Chief of Staff Jason Kim introduced the 2024 cohort to the mainstage for lightning talks on space sustainability. He also participated in a lunch with the AIAA Diversity Scholars and speed mentoring for students and young professionals.

Also at ASCEND, the OSC team held a public discussion with industry on conjunction assessment performance metrics, provided updates on the migration of SSA services from DoD to TraCSS, and spoke about orbital debris remediation policy and regulation.



Across Commerce

DOC Hosts Brooke Owens and Patti Grace Smith Fellowship Summits

On July 11th, the Department of Commerce hosted the annual joint summit of the **Brooke Owens** and **Patti Grace Smith** Fellowship programs for undergraduate interns from racial and gender minority backgrounds. Deputy Secretary Don Graves addressed them, highlighting the crucial need for diverse future leaders in the space industry.



“While many pioneers have shattered social barriers, more progress is necessary. We at the Department of Commerce continue to work towards a more equitable space economy and sector,

representative and inclusive of those that have shaped it and stand to reap its benefits," said Deputy Secretary Graves.

The students also heard from other space leaders, including Greg Robinson (NASA), Sirisha Bandla (Virgin Galactic), and the National Space Council staff. Additionally, they worked on group projects focused on a variety of space policy topics, from cislunar space to orbital debris.

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NOAA Releases RFP for Commercial Microwave Sounder Pilot

On July 15, NOAA released a Request for Proposal for a Commercial Microwave Sounder Pilot to be conducted under its Commercial Data Purchase program.

For this pilot study, NOAA is seeking passive microwave sounder products from commercial vendors that will enable NOAA to derive vertical temperature and moisture profiles of the atmosphere, as well as land and hydrology measurements that meet the current and anticipated needs of operational weather models and applications. NOAA will evaluate and demonstrate the quality and impact of commercially available microwave sounder data on NOAA's weather forecast models. Successful studies subsequently may lead to sustained commercial data purchases of this type of data.

Industry proposals are due on August 16. View the RFP at [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov)

Learn more about NOAA's Commercial Data Program on OSC's [website](#).

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OSC in the News

- *Communications Daily*: [Lack of Global SSA Regime Impeding Space Safety, Commerce Official Says](#)
- *ExecutiveGov*: [Dmitry Poisik Installed as Inaugural TraCSS Program Manager at NOAA's Office of Space Commerce](#)
- *Payload*: [How Japan Became Ground Zero for Space Sustainability](#)
- *Breaking Defense*: [New commercial space traffic system debuts soon, on heels of DoD, Commerce data sharing pact](#)

Looking Ahead

OSC staff will be featured participants in these upcoming events. Interested in meeting with us at one of these events? Submit a meeting request [here](#).

- Aug 3-8:** Small Satellite Conference - Logan, UT
- Aug 7:** Beyond Earth Webinar - Virtual
- Sep 16 - 20:** World Satellite Business Week - Paris, France
- Sep 17-20:** AMOS (TraCSS) - Kula, HI

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Connect With Us!

Stay in the loop on the latest OSC news, updates, and opportunities:

- **Website:** space.commerce.gov
- **Contact Us:** space.commerce.gov/contact-us
- **TraCSS:** space.commerce.gov/tracss
- **LinkedIn:** [Office of Space Commerce](#)
- **X:** [@CommerceinSpace](#)
- **Past Newsletters:** space.commerce.gov/about/osc-newsletters