



# Space Commerce Highlights

## News from the Office of Space Commerce

Don't hesitate to contact us with your feedback, thoughts, and ideas at: [Space.Commerce@NOAA.Gov](mailto:Space.Commerce@NOAA.Gov).

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### *From the Director*

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Colleagues & friends,

2024 has been off to a roaring start for the Office of Space Commerce, across all of our lines of effort.

Our Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS) team has made major strides since our November newsletter: holding a listening session on TraCSS data standards; convening the first meeting of its Independent Review Board; placing the first set of orders for the TraCSS consolidated pathfinder; and announcing a CRADA on automated collision avoidance. Meanwhile, our policy team remains busy with our international and domestic advocacy: convening dialogues with France, with our Quad partners, and beginning to roll out our global vision for SSA cooperation and space sustainability (more to come on that).

Our regulatory division finally got full-time leadership after nearly two years. And, we continue to consult with stakeholders inside and outside of government about best practices and paths toward a modernized, flexible regulatory environment for new space activities.

We value the involvement and consultation. I highly encourage you to check out our updated "[contact us](#)" page for meeting requests and to subscribe to our other forms of communication - don't hesitate to reach out!



With thanks,

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## OSC & the National Space Council Meeting

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In December, Vice President Harris convened the third meeting of the **National Space Council** under the Biden-Harris Administration.

Representing the Department of Commerce, Deputy Secretary Don Graves spoke about the Department's key roles in weather and climate monitoring, space situational awareness, collaborative international partnerships, and sensible commercial space regulation.

During the meeting, Vice President Harris announced the release of the "United States Novel Space Activities Authorization and Supervision Framework," which can be read [here](#).

This document is intended to set forth actions the Executive Branch will work to implement, which will be complementary to more comprehensive statutory authorities provided by legislation. The Office of Space Commerce is now engaged with partners in the Department, the interagency, and external stakeholders on paths forward toward implementing this framework.



During the meeting, the National Space Council also discussed a number of activities and tasks, summarized in a White House fact sheet on international space partnerships, which can be read [here](#). Relevant space commerce items include:

- Tasking to develop minimum cybersecurity standards for space systems;
- Tasking to review U.S. space export controls;
- Efforts by FAA to eliminate dual licensing of U.S. launch activities conducted in another country;
- Plans for a space session at the 2024 SelectUSA Investment Summit;
- Continued commercial space diplomacy efforts through bilateral and multilateral engagements;
- Release of a **NASA/DoD/DOC space manufacturing technology report**, which outlines opportunities for further investment in cutting-edge space manufacturing capabilities and workforce.



To facilitate industry engagement with the TraCSS team, OSC has created a dedicated "stakeholder contact" email address. You can reach out with your questions or comments to [TraCSS.Commerce@NOAA.gov](mailto:TraCSS.Commerce@NOAA.gov)

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## February TraCSS Listening Session - Registration Open



The Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS) listening sessions, hosted by the Department of Commerce's Office of Space Commerce, are open meetings to provide the public and civil/commercial space situational awareness (SSA) community with the most up-to-date information about TraCSS. These sessions are an opportunity for stakeholders to offer and provide feedback to the Office of Space Commerce.

**Join us on Tuesday, February 13, at 3:30 pm (EST) for the next TraCSS listening session** - focused on what the Office of Space Commerce (OSC) should consider/account for in the operational transition of certain SSA and space traffic coordination (STC) responsibilities from the Department of Defense (DoD) to the Department of Commerce (DOC).

DoD and DOC have been closely coordinating throughout the planning and development for TraCSS. As the teams "dive deeper" into defining the day-to-day operational aspects of this transition, OSC is seeking stakeholder and "future TraCSS user" feedback on what considerations, questions, and potential challenges the teams should take into account. Where applicable, the input and feedback offered during this listening session will inform operations transition planning and feed into DoD and DOC exchanges.

This listening session will consist of a brief high-level overview on TraCSS from representatives of both OSC and DoD. The majority of the session will be dedicated to verbal feedback from attendees. An opportunity to provide your verbal comments (up to three minutes) as a registered attendee will be provided; as will opportunity to provide written comments and questions.

Register via GoToWebinar, [here](#).

## OSC Inaugurates TraCSS Independent Review Board (IRB)

OSC recently convened its newly established TraCSS Independent Review Board (IRB), which consists of six well-recognized experts in space program management and space situational awareness (SSA) who serve on a voluntary basis.

The IRB was chartered by NOAA to provide guidance on: program milestones; risk identification and mitigation; program management; system engineering processes; and operational concepts and processes. The IRB will reconvene on a periodic basis as the TraCSS program progresses through agile development cycles towards initial operations and beyond.



## OSC Initiates TraCSS Pathfinder Projects

Earlier this month, OSC announced the start of a commercial pathfinder project in support of TraCSS. To execute the pathfinder, OSC placed orders with three U.S. commercial space companies for space situational awareness (SSA) data and services. The project, known as the **Consolidated Pathfinder**, is a limited-term effort that focuses on SSA for the low Earth orbit (LEO) regime. The Consolidated Pathfinder will inform the buildout of the operational TraCSS.

OSC placed orders with the following companies to conduct the Consolidated Pathfinder:

- **COMSPOC** of Exton, PA, for the provision of orbit determination services;
- **LeoLabs** of Menlo Park, CA, for SSA data and services focused on the LEO regime; and
- **Slingshot Aerospace** of El Segundo, CA, for SSA data and services focused on the LEO regime.

OSC partnered with NASA to place the orders through the Global Data Marketplace, formerly known as the SDA Marketplace. As an extension of the Consolidated Pathfinder, OSC is in the planning phases to put out an additional order for data quality monitoring services.

OSC is also preparing an order for another TraCSS pathfinder on Improved Satellite Owner/Operator Ephemeris. OSC plans to seek participation from commercial SSA service providers for funded services on this activity in the spring of 2024, via the Global Data Marketplace.

Read more, [here](#).

## December Listening Session on TraCSS Data Standards & Formats



On December 18, 2023, the Office of Space Commerce held its third video presentation and listening session, providing updates on progress of the Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS) with a specific focus on space data standards and data formats the system will use and generate. The archived listening session video, presentation, and handouts are available on the listening session webpage, [here](#).

Topics covered included: plans for the provision and format of space situational awareness (SAA) data from TraCSS; SSA data types that will be provided by TraCSS to other SSA platforms and satellite operators; and published standards recommended to represent and transmit these data types out from TraCSS.



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## **OSC Updates**

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### **OSC CRSRA Welcomes Dr. Sarah Brothers**

OSC is proud to announce the selection of **Sarah Brothers, Ph.D.** as Director of OSC's Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA) Division, effective January 2, 2024.

Dr. Brothers is an expert in remote sensing technologies and analysis with experience developing and implementing national space policies in the commercial, civil, and security space sectors. In prior positions, she analyzed and assessed operational impacts of emerging commercial space technologies to enable a more competitive U.S. space industry.



CRSRA regulates the operation of private remote sensing space systems, subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States, while preserving essential national security interests, foreign policy, and international obligations. CRSRA was reorganized to become a division of OSC in November 2022.

With Dr. Brothers at the helm, CRSRA plans to continue evolving with the U.S. commercial space sector. She is leading efforts to establish a modernized, online licensing system. To meet the goals of the White House's recently released United States Novel Space Activities Authorization and Supervision Framework, CRSRA is working with partners in the federal government and industry to evaluate possible regulatory approaches and best practices for emerging types of commercial space activity.

### **Director DalBello Testifies on “Safety & Innovation in the New Space Economy”**

On December 13, OSC Director Richard DalBello testified before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, at a hearing on “Government Promotion of Safety and Innovation in the New Space Economy.”

In his testimony, Director DalBello spoke about the progress the Office of Space Commerce is making in standing up the Traffic Coordination System for Space; on the need for a modern and flexible



regulatory regime to accommodate non-traditional commercial space activities; and on the Office of Space Commerce's vision for the future of globally coordinated space situational awareness and space traffic management.

View the hearing info and video at [Senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov). For Director DalBello's written remarks, visit the OSC news release, [here](#).

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## ***Stakeholder Engagements***

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### **OSC Leads Quad Commercial Space Business Forum**

The Office of Space Commerce is currently leading a series of virtual exchanges called the "Quad Commercial Space Business Forum" with India, Australia and Japan under the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD), or "Quad."

Day 1, held on 14 Dec 2023, focused on "Industry Perspectives," and included 105 participants, hailing from both the industry and government, and included representatives from 79 US companies. Industry comments generally fell into three categories.



First, industry representatives encouraged Quad systems alignment, i.e. establishing common standards, alignment of space regulations and tax structures, and responsibility for commercial launch and operations.

Second, industry representatives expressed interest in new business opportunities, i.e. new markets, matchmaking, and commercial and or public-private collaboration. Last, looking at 'Quad as a customer', companies wondered if Quad governments are considering cost-shared projects and financing.

Forum Days 2 & 3, scheduled for 28 and 29 February, will be government-only sessions. Informed by the Day 1 "Industry Perspectives," participants will compare national policy and regulatory frameworks and discuss challenges and opportunities for strengthening commercial cooperation.

Partners will also provide short briefings on areas of particular interest. For example, the OSC Director Richard DalBello will brief on Space Situational Awareness (SAA) Standards and Best Practices.

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## ***Also at Commerce***

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### **NOAA Awards Commercial Radio Occultation Data Buy**

Earlier this month, NOAA announced that it has awarded an eight-month Radio Occultation Data Buy II (RODB-2) Delivery Order-3 (DO-3) firm-fixed price contract to Spire Global Subsidiary Inc.

NOAA will acquire 6,000 near-real-time global navigation satellite system radio occultation data profiles per day, with unlimited distribution rights. The data delivery period will run from January 18, 2024, through September 18, 2024.

NOAA's Commercial Data Program engages with the commercial sector through pilots and acquisition of operational satellite data-as-a-service for commercial data to help improve weather forecasts and provide risk reduction to the overall observing system. Learn more about the NOAA Commercial Data Program [here](#).

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## ***Looking Ahead***

OSC staff and/or DOC leadership will be featured participants in these upcoming public & industry events. Interested in meeting with us at these events? Schedule a meeting! Submit your request on the OSC meeting request form, [here](#).

**Feb. 6 - 8:** SmallSat Symposium (CA)

**Feb. 22 - 23:** FAA-AST/CSF Commercial Space Transportation Conference (DC)

**Mar. 19 - 20:** SATELLITE 2024 (DC)

**April 8 - 11:** Space Symposium (CO)





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## ***Connect With Us!***

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Stay in the loop on the latest news, updates, and opportunities from the Office of Space Commerce:

- **Website:** <https://www.space.commerce.gov/>
- **Contact Us Page:** <https://www.space.commerce.gov/about/contact-us/>
- **TraCSS Homepage:**  
<https://www.space.commerce.gov/traffic-coordination-system-for-space-tracss>
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/office-of-space-commerce/>
- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/CommerceinSpace>
- **Office Contact:** [Space.Commerce@NOAA.gov](mailto:Space.Commerce@NOAA.gov)
- **TraCSS Contact:** [TraCSS.Commerce@NOAA.gov](mailto:TraCSS.Commerce@NOAA.gov)