



Space Commerce Highlights

News from the Office of Space Commerce

March 2024

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

From the Director

Colleagues & friends,

The Office of Space Commerce heads into April with much on our plate, and several recent accomplishments under our belt. I'm as pleased as ever to share with you what our team has been up to.

Last month, we took a major step standing up the infrastructure for our Traffic Coordination System for Space through the selection of our "TraCSS System Integrator." This contract award reflects our intentional approach of leveraging best-of-breed commercial innovation and capability to achieve our timelines and objectives for TraCSS.

Meanwhile, with our partners at the Department of State and colleagues in industry, we held another successful "Comprehensive Dialogue on Space" with our French counterparts. During these productive sessions, we discussed continuing opportunities and initiatives to strengthen our bilateral space collaboration. As I write this, my team is in Angola participating in the NewSpace Africa Conference. There, we have facilitated a session with the largest-ever U.S. government delegation to attend a space conference in Africa - demonstrating our commitment to growing commercial space ecosystems worldwide.

Our door is always open for your questions, comments, thoughts, and feedback. You can easily get a hold of us through my office's "[contact us](#)" page on our website. For those of you attending the upcoming Space Symposium, I look forward to seeing you!



With thanks,



OSC has a dedicated email address for industry engagement on TraCSS:
TraCSS.Commerce@NOAA.gov

NOAA Selects TraCSS System Integrator

On March 18, **NOAA announced** the award of a \$15.5 million contract to Parsons Corporation of Chantilly, Virginia, for system integration and cloud management services for the Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS).

The award to Parsons represents OSC's second major acquisition for the infrastructure components of the operational TraCSS system. The first was a task order awarded to AWS in August 2023 to establish the secure cloud computing infrastructure to host TraCSS. In October 2023, OSC issued a Request for Information (RFI) for the third major TraCSS acquisition — the provision of a presentation layer that will provide the user interface to display and access SSA data and services. NOAA is currently conducting market research for the TraCSS presentation layer.

As the system integrator, Parsons will:

- Develop the software backbone for the operational TraCSS platform, including the SSA data repository (TraCSS-OASIS) and the application layer (TraCSS-SKYLINE).
- Integrate containerized, third-party software components from commercial companies into TraCSS.
- Build, following an agile development approach, the basic infrastructure for the TraCSS system that will allow continuous improvement and evolution to react to changing TraCSS mission needs.

The company's role also encompasses management of cloud services, cybersecurity protection and system administration for TraCSS operations.

"NOAA has decades of experience fielding operational, public safety systems that issue hazard alerts to protect lives and property," said NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad, Ph.D. "We are applying that experience to the development of TraCSS."

On March 5, 2024, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves issued an Authority to Proceed memorandum for Phase 1 of the TraCSS program.

Read the news release on NOAA's website, [here](#).

Stakeholder Engagements

Reminder: CRSRA RFI on Remote Sensing Satellite Disposal Requirements Due April 8

To avoid duplicative regulation, OSC's Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs division (CRSRA) currently defers to FCC license requirements regarding orbital debris and spacecraft disposal. However, in certain cases, CRSRA licensees are not subject to FCC regulation, leaving a gap in the application of disposal requirements. CRSRA seeks to provide guidance on how such licensees may satisfy the disposal condition in their CRSRA license.

Written comments are due on or before Monday, April 8, 2024.

View RFI at [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov)

The public may submit written comments on issues addressed in this Notice by either of the following methods:

- Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via email to space.commerce@noaa.gov.
- Mail: Submit written comments to Office of Space Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 68015, 1401 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20230

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FY25 Budget Proposes \$75.6M for Office of Space Commerce

The President's budget, released March 11, proposes \$75.6 million for the Office of Space Commerce, a \$10.6 million increase above the FY2024 enacted level. Utilizing proposed FY2025 funding, OSC will:

- Plan to complete Phase 1 operational deployment of the Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS) basic services.
- Coordinate and facilitate a [Federal Advisory Committee](#) ("ACES") for all operational and policy areas of OSC.

\$3 million is proposed in the FY2025 budget for OSC to develop and maintain a new modern, unified information system, a "Space Portal. \$2 million is proposed for OSC to support "Mission Authorization and Supervision" activities.

View the Department of Commerce's FY2025 budget Congressional Justification [here](#). OCS justifications are on page 633, 637 ("Space Portal"), and 641 ("Mission Authorization and Supervision").

U.S., France Hold 2nd Comprehensive Dialogue on Space

*Office of Space Commerce
Director Richard DalBello
addresses industry and
government representatives
from France during the March
20 "Track 1.5" session.*



On March 20-21, 2024, representatives of the United States and France convened in the Washington area for the **second U.S.-France Comprehensive Dialogue on Space**. As with the first instance in November 2022, the comprehensive dialogue included a dedicated government-industry "Track 1.5" session to discuss bilateral commercial space collaboration opportunities.

The Office of Space Commerce played a key role in organizing the Track 1.5 event on March 20, in partnership with the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) and Groupement des industries françaises aéronautiques et spatiales (GIFAS). Some 50 U.S. and French companies participated, with their discussion addressing themes of market access, regulation and policy, spaceflight safety and SSA, and emerging space activities.

The Department of Commerce hosted a preparatory session for the U.S. industry delegation on March 19, with opening remarks by Deputy Secretary Don Graves.

Many thanks to AIA for hosting both days of the dialogue at their headquarters in Arlington, Virginia! [View the joint statement at state.gov.](#)



*Deputy Secretary Don
Graves offers opening
remarks to the U.S.
industry delegation
during a March 19th
"preparatory session"
held at the Department
of Commerce.*

Across Commerce

Deputy Secretary Graves Convenes Celebration of Women in Space Commerce

In honor of Women's History Month and to celebrate the critical contributions that pioneering women have made in space and the commercial space industry, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves hosted a convening of female leaders across the commercial space sector and federal government on March 27.

This convening featured a panel of women leaders, entrepreneurs, and policy experts making change in the commercial space industry. Through facilitated dialogue with the audience, they highlighted the significant achievements and contributions made by women to our space enterprise, while discussing their own career journeys in the sector.

Panelists at the event included:

- **Carol Craig**, Founder and CEO, Sidus Space
- **Janice Starzyk**, Deputy Director, Office of Space Commerce
- **Charity Weeden**, Associate Administrator for Technology, Policy, and Strategy, NASA
- **Blake Bullock**, Vice President, Communications Systems, Northrop Grumman



NIST to hold “Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity - An Open Forum” with Red Hat, with focus on space data applications

On April 24, from 8:30 am - 1:00 pm (ET) at the Ronald Reagan Building, Red Hat and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will co-host the third annual Cybersecurity Open Forum.

This in-person event will be an opportunity to hear from some of the brightest cybersecurity professionals to hear about the nature of cybersecurity vulnerabilities and strategies to enable protection in open cloud-based environments.

Topics will include computing and security measures, practices, and policies and the rising modes of space data applications. Among this year's themes is “standards and interoperability...”

Standards are essential for defining interfaces and environments to facilitate interoperability, especially in space systems. Through the collaborative development of standards, space system owners, operators and users find commonality while decreasing unique configurations and traditional barriers in the development effort.

This symposium will explore the linkages between standards and interoperability in the system architectures and cybersecurity to support greater efficiencies, promote cost savings, reduce threats, and increase the probability of mission success.

For more information and to register, visit the registration page available [here](#).

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OSC Is Hiring

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In March, OSC welcomed two new members to our staff:

- LaKeshia Dixon - Budget Analyst, Resource Management Division
- Georgette Njemnze - Budget Analyst, Resource Management Division

Welcome LaKeshia & Georgette!

Current [open positions/job announcements](#) at OSC include:

- [Supervisory Developmental Engineer \(TraCSS Program Manager\)](#) | GS-15 Equivalent, Direct Hire, **closes April 14**
- [General Engineer \(3 Positions for TraCSS Program Staff\)](#) | GS-13/14 Equivalent, Direct Hire, **closes April 18**

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OSC in the News

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- *SpaceNews*: “**Office of Space Commerce considers restoring orbital debris regulations for commercial remote sensing licensees**”
- *SpaceNews*: “**Parsons to be system integrator for TraCSS space traffic coordination system**”
- *Via Satellite*: “**Managing and Building Sustainability in Space is Still a Moving Target**”
- *Planet NOAA Podcast*: “**To the stars and beyond**”

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Looking Ahead

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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](#).

Apr 7-11: Space Symposium (Colorado Springs, CO)

- April 7: Space Generation Fusion Forum
- April 8: IISL Space Law & Regulatory Track
- April 8: Italy-U.S. Commercial Dialogue (*by invite*)
- April 8: Aerospace International SSA/STM Policy Exchange (*by invite*)
- April 10: U.S.-N.Z. Commercial Space Roundtable (*by invite*)
- April 11: Director DalBello/PD Langster Fireside Discussion (*main stage*)
- April 11: “Regulatory Stakeholders Forum” (*by invite*)

April 22-24: Military Space Domain Awareness Forum (London, UK)

April 29 - May 7: CCSDS/NIST Technical Plenary Spring Meetings & Lunar Interoperability Forum. For more information, please visit the [CCSDS Spring Meetings 2024](#) Information Overview event page.

April 30: Meridian Space Diplomacy Forum (Washington, DC)

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Connect With Us!

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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](#)