

Akin

Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update



May 31, 2024

[Subscribe](#) | [Share](#)   

Good Afternoon!

This is Akin's biweekly policy newsletter on space policy and regulatory developments, providing information on major space headlines and forthcoming space-related events and hearings:

On The Hill

Articles and Quotes

Senate CJS Appropriators See Artemis as Top NASA Priority. (Space Policy Online)

The Senate appropriators who fund the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) left no doubt that the Artemis program is their top priority for the agency. In a friendly hearing, Democrats and Republicans stressed the importance of staying ahead of China in space exploration and keeping Artemis on schedule.

House Armed Services Committee Advances 2025 Defense Policy Bill (SpaceNews)

The House Armed Services Committee, in a late-night vote on May 22, approved its version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2025 by a vote of 57-1. One of the more contentious amendments passed was the proposal submitted by Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) to require governors to approve any transfer of Air National Guard units to the Space Force. It also requires annual reports to Congress on the status of transfers of Air Guard units to the Space Force.

GOP Senator Calls for Boosting Space Force Capabilities to Counter China (SpaceNews)

Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS), the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, released a [white paper](#) on May 29 calling for an increase in defense spending to fund cutting-edge technologies, including U.S. Space Force capabilities to compete with China's growing military presence in space.

Introduced Legislation

On May 22, 2024, the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) marked up and advanced the fiscal year (FY) 2025 defense authorization bill, the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement Act ([H.R. 8070](#)), in a 57-1 vote. The bill included a flat 4.5% raise for servicemembers and a \$17.5 billion investment in military construction. The Senate Armed Services Committee will discuss its version of the defense legislation next month. Please find the final markup data [here](#) and the amended bill language [here](#).

Please find our Space Legislation Tracker [here](#).

Recent and Upcoming Congressional Hearings

May 30 - June 14, 2024

Senate

[Closed Hearings to Examine Proposed Budget Estimates and Justification for Fiscal Year 2025 for Space Matters](#)

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Department of Defense

Tuesday, June 4 at 10:00 AM ET

House of Representatives

[An Overview of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2025](#)

House Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Environment

Tuesday, June 4 at 10:00 AM ET

[Markup of Fiscal Year 2025 Defense Bill](#)

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense

Wednesday, June 5 at TBD

In The Executive Branch



Articles and Quotes

[SpaceX Launches First Satellites for New US Spy Constellation \(Reuters\)](#)

On Wednesday, SpaceX launched an inaugural batch of operational spy satellites it built as part of a new U.S. intelligence network designed to significantly upgrade the country's space-based surveillance powers, the first deployment of several more planned this year.

[Pentagon Says Russia 'Likely' Launched Space Weapon \(Politico\)](#)

The United States has blamed Russia for launching a spacecraft capable of attacking satellites in orbit, the Pentagon said late Tuesday as tensions over space weaponry ramp up. "Russia launched a satellite into low Earth orbit that we assess is likely a counter space weapon," the Pentagon's spokesman Pat Ryder said, adding that the spacecraft was dispatched "into the same orbit as a U.S. government satellite."

[AI Startup Wallaroo Tapped to Help Space Force Operationalize Machine Learning \(SpaceNews\)](#)

Wallaroo.AI, an artificial intelligence (AI) company that helps businesses deploy machine learning models, is setting its sights on the military market. The New York-based startup has

been selected to participate in the U.S. Space Force's TAP (Tools, Applications & Processing) Lab accelerator program in Colorado Springs. The accelerator is focused on the use of commercial technologies for space domain awareness, a capability sought by the U.S. military as threats in the space domain heighten.

National Space Council will Explore Military Space and Intelligence Roles and Responsibilities (SpaceNews)

Chirag Parikh, National Space Council (NSC) executive secretary, shared that the NSC will look into the role of various departments, agencies and services in space operations. Parikh stated that “[NSC is] working with National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and Department of Defense stakeholders to best understand where we are on this matter now. It’s come to the forefront.” Parikh added that the Council will consider solutions including policies, authorities and funding to solve the challenges of space responsibilities.

Space Force Eyes Better EW Test and Training Ranges with New Contract Awards (Air & Space Forces Magazine)

The U.S. Space Force (USSF) has awarded six-month contracts to six different companies to develop plans for improving the service’s electronic warfare (EW) training capabilities in the latest move in USSF’s efforts to upgrade its test and training infrastructure.

LEOcloud to Send Space Edge Datacenter to ISS (SpaceNews)

The Center for the Advancement of Science in Space, which manages the International Space Station (ISS) National Laboratory, is offering LEOcloud an opportunity to demonstrate its Space Edge Infrastructure as a Service.

US DOD Awards Contract for At-Sea Space Launch Infrastructure (Marine Link)

The Spaceport Company (TSC) has been awarded a contract by the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), an office within the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), to deliver cargo and enable greater access to space by leveraging a unique, seagoing mobile space launch complex. This prototype is intended to demonstrate delivery to a mission-designed orbit and test autonomy-like features of the sea launch vessel.

FCC Chair Proposes New Rules for Accidental Space Explosion Risk (SpaceNews)

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) chair Jessica Rosenworcel proposed new rules May 29 to cover the risk of debris-generating accidental explosions in space. The new rules would require applicants to assess and limit the probability of accidental explosions to less than one in a thousand for each satellite they submit for approval.

NASA Report Identifies Cost-Effective Approaches to Dealing with Orbital Debris (SpaceNews)

Decreasing the time satellites remain in orbit after the end of their missions is one of the most cost-effective ways to address the orbital debris problem, a NASA report concluded. The report, released by NASA’s Office of Technology, Policy and Strategy May 20, is a follow up to a March 2023 report that focused on the effectiveness of debris remediation techniques, or ways to remove debris. The new report expanded its scope to include strategies for debris mitigation, or preventing the creation of debris, as well as tracking improvements.

Federal Agency Space News

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA, Mission Partners to Discuss Starliner Crew Flight Test Progress (May 23, 2024)

[NASA Selects Technology Transfer Services Contractor](#) (May 23, 2024)

[Rae Ann Meyer Named Deputy Director of NASA Marshall](#) (May 23, 2024)

[NASA Goddard, Maryland Sign Memo to Boost State's Aerospace Sector](#) (May 29, 2024)

U.S. Space Force

[SecAF Visits Vandenberg Space Force Base](#) (May 22, 2024)

[Space Force to Accept Air Force Reserve Volunteers for Full-Time Positions](#) (May 23, 2024)

Check out below for comment opportunities, requests for proposals, notices of proposed rulemaking and a look at the week ahead in space events:

Comment Opportunities (RFIs)

[Reserve Forces Policy Board; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting*](#)

Department of Defense

Close Date: June 5, 2024

*Note: Notice of Open Public Meeting, not RFI

[Narrowband \(NB\) SATCOM Transition, Examining UHF at Medium Earth Orbit \(MEO\)](#)

Department of Defense

Close Date: June 21, 2024

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

[Artificial Intelligence Applications in Heliophysics](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 20, 2024

[Living with a Star Science](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 13, 2024

[Space Flight Systems Development and Operations Contract II \(SpaceDOC II\) Extension](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: June 7, 2024

[Heliophysics U.S. Participating Investigator](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Jan 29, 2025

Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

[Commercial Low Earth Orbit \(LEO\) Development Program Utilization Operations and Requirements Technical Interchange Meeting*](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: June 7, 2024

International



Articles and Quotes

South Korea Plans Mars Landing in 2045 as it Launches First Space Agency **(Reuters)**

South Korea plans to make a Mars landing by 2045 and spend 100 trillion won (\$72.6 billion) until then on space exploration, President Yoon Suk Yeol said on Thursday at the launch of the country's first space agency. The Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA) will lead the country's "space economy," with hundreds of businesses and enterprises working to catapult South Korea into the ranks of the world's top five space powers, Yoon said.

Chang'e-6 Set for Weekend Landing Attempt as Sun Rises Over Apollo Crater **(SpaceNews)**

Chang'e-6 is set to make its lunar landing attempt this weekend, in what will be a critical moment in China's mission to collect the first samples from the far side of the moon.

Open Cosmos Wins Greek Government Satellite Contract **(SpaceNews)**

European smallsat manufacturer Open Cosmos has won a contract to build a constellation of seven satellites for the Greek government.

North Korean Military Satellite Launch Fail **(Space Policy Online)**

North Korea's attempt to launch a second military reconnaissance satellite into orbit failed. Video of the rocket exploding during ascent was captured by Japan's NHK television, and North Korea later acknowledged the failure.

Chinese Reusable Rocket Maker to Cooperate on New MEO Constellation **(SpaceNews)**

Chinese rocket maker Space Epoch has entered into a strategic partnership with satellite operator Shifang Xinglian to develop a constellation of medium Earth orbit (MEO) satellites. Top officials from Beijing Jianyuan Technology Co., Ltd., also known as Space Epoch, or Sepoch, and Shifang Xinglian (Suzhou) Aerospace Technology Co., Ltd. (Shifang Xinglian) signed a strategic cooperation agreement in Beijing May 23.

EU and ESA Seek Increased Competitiveness of European Space Sector **(SpaceNews)**

European officials adopted a resolution to increase the competitiveness of Europe's space industry, but members of that industry say the measure falls far short of what is needed. At the conclusion of a Space Council meeting May 23 in Brussels, members of the European Space Agency (ESA) and European Union (EU) adopted a resolution on strengthening Europe's competitiveness in space, including supporting companies working in the industry.

Russia Denies U.S. Charge that it Put Anti-Satellite Weapon in Space **(Reuters)**

Russia's top arms control diplomat dismissed as "fake news" on Wednesday an assertion by the United States that Russia had launched a weapon into low-Earth orbit that was capable of inspecting and attacking other satellites. The Kremlin has flatly denied assertions by U.S. officials that Moscow is developing a space-based anti-satellite nuclear weapon.

Dominican Republic Considering its Own Commercial Spaceport (SpaceNews)

The Dominican Republic has kicked off a study into the feasibility of setting up a commercial spaceport near the equator. Florida-based Launch on Demand, a launch licensing and technical services specialist, announced a contract May 22 to lead the six-month study from the National Intelligence Directorate (DNI), the Dominican Republic's recently reorganized national security body.

Upcoming Space Events

Space Situational Awareness Training Events

UNOOSA

June 3 - 4, 2024

ABA Space Law Symposium

ABA

June 4, 2024

Akin associate [Chase Hamilton](#) will moderate the "Export Controls for the Space Industry" panel. Partner [Kevin Wolf](#) will be a speaker on that panel as well.

UN Conference on Sustainable Lunar Activities

UNOOSA

June 18, 2024

67th Session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

UNOOSA

June 19 - 28, 2024



Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

Authors



Michael C. Mineiro
Space Policy & Regulation
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4068



Thomas J. McCarthy
International Trade
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4047



Jennifer L. Richter
Telecom, Media & Technology
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4524



Hans C. Rickhoff
Lobbying & Public Policy
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4145



Marta A. Thompson
Government Contracts
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4055



Lamar Smith
Lobbying & Public Policy
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4031

Contributors



Chase Hamilton
International Trade
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4018



Sharanya Sriram
Telecom, Media & Technology
[Email](#)
+1 202.887.4278

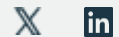


Caroline Shrock
Lobbying & Public Policy
[Email](#)
+1 202.416.5110



Siva Cidambaram
Lobbying & Public Policy
[Email](#)
+1 202.416.5097

akingump.com



© 2024 Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. All rights reserved. Attorney advertising. This document is distributed for informational use only; it does not constitute legal advice and should not be used as such. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Receipt of this information does not create an attorney-client relationship. Do not act upon this information without seeking professional counsel. All content is presented by Akin and cannot be copied or rebroadcasted without express written consent. Akin is the practicing name of Akin Gump LLP, a New York limited liability partnership authorized and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority under number 267321. A list of the partners is available for inspection at Eighth Floor, Ten Bishops Square, London E1 6EG. For more information about Akin Gump LLP, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and other associated entities under which the Akin network operates worldwide, please see our [Legal Notices](#) page.

[Update Your Preferences](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#) | [Legal Notices](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

This email was sent by: 2001 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-1037