

Akin

Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update



June 14, 2024

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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

Congressional Letter Asks NASA to Rescind Chandra Cuts (SpaceNews)

Nine members of Congress have asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to reconsider significant changes to operations of the Chandra X-Ray Observatory linked to proposed cuts in the space telescope's budget.

Congressional Language Alters Plans for NASA's Habitable Worlds Observatory (SpaceNews)

Congressional language intended to accelerate work on a future NASA space telescope has the side effect of forcing the agency to disband a team it created to guide the mission's early development. NASA established last year two committees to support the early development of the Habitable Worlds Observatory, a large space telescope recommended by the Astro2020 decadal survey and projected to launch no earlier than the early 2040s.

House Intelligence Committee Advances FY25 Intelligence Authorization Act (House Intelligence Press Release)

The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence passed the Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, which authorizes funding for the United States Intelligence Community (IC). The measure was passed unanimously by voice.

Reed and Wicker Announce FY 2025 NDAA Markup Schedule (Senate Armed Services Press Release)

U.S. Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Roger Wicker (R-MS), the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, announced the full committee and subcommittee markup schedule for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2025.

Introduced Legislation

On June 14, 2024, the House of Representatives passed the FY 2025 national defense authorization bill, the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement Act ([H.R. 8070](#)), in a 217-199 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 over the next month. The bill received over 400 amendments, which can be found [here](#). The Rules Committee's print of the bill can be found [here](#) and the administration's statement on the bill can be found [here](#).

The House Appropriations Committee advanced the FY25 Defense Appropriations Act ([HR ____](#)) in a 34-25 vote with an allocation of \$833.053 billion (\$8.57 billion above the FY 2024 appropriations). The House is expected to bring the bill to floor debate on the week of June 24. Please see a summary of the bill [here](#) and the full text (without amendments) [here](#). Please see the bill's report language (without amendments) [here](#).

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

Recent and Upcoming Congressional Hearings

June 17 - June 28, 2024

Senate

[A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request for the National Guard and Reserves](#)

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense

Tuesday, June 18 at 10:00 AM ET

In The Executive Branch



Articles and Quotes

[Boeing's Starliner Launches NASA Astronauts After Setbacks](#) (*Wall Street Journal*)

Boeing's Starliner spacecraft blasted off on its first astronaut mission, a years-in-the-making flight that the company and NASA had delayed several times.

[NASA Calls Off Astronauts' ISS Spacewalk Over 'Spacesuit Discomfort'](#) (*Reuters*)

NASA said a "spacesuit discomfort issue" forced the cancellation of a planned spacewalk outside the International Space Station (ISS) by two U.S. astronauts on Thursday, roughly an hour before their repair mission was poised to begin.

[LeoLabs Wins AFWERX Contract to Develop Next-Generation Radar](#) (*SpaceNews*)

LeoLabs announced plans June 13 to build a new type of radar under a \$1.245 million AFWERX contract. The S-band 2-D Direct Radiating Array will be particularly adept at tracking rocket launches and spacecraft in very low Earth orbit (VLEO), Dan Ceperley, LeoLabs founder and chief operating officer, told SpaceNews.

Pentagon Embracing SpaceX's Starshield for Future Military Satcom ***(SpaceNews)***

In a stark illustration of how rapidly the satellite communications landscape is shifting toward large constellations of smaller satellites in low-Earth orbit, the Defense Department plans to add more than 100 of SpaceX's Starshield satellites to its future satcom architecture.

Space Development Agency Calls on Satellite Builders to Diversify Suppliers ***(SpaceNews)***

The Space Development Agency is pushing prime contractors to line up secondary and tertiary suppliers for key satellite components amid fears of supply chain shortfalls that could delay the agency's ambitious schedule for deploying a new proliferated architecture in low-Earth orbit.

CGI Develops Standardized Interfaces for ESA for the SATCOM Market + New CEO + President ***(SAT News)***

In addition to enabling the best possible use of available resources, these will help open up the market to more operators and service providers and encourage long-term cooperation within the European satellite communications industry. The first such open source-based interface is now available in a public repository and being continually refined.

Report: Space Force Transitioning to New Model for the Defense of Space ***(SpaceNews)***

An analysis of the U.S. Space Force's budget proposed for FY 2025 indicates the service is embracing a new approach to military satellite architectures. The analysis, released June 6 by the Aerospace Corporation, finds that in contrast to past practices favoring larger, more complex and exquisite systems, the Space Force is now aggressively pursuing proliferated networks of simpler and cheaper spacecraft, an influx of commercially derived satellite assets and increased leveraging of services provided by private space companies.

Iridium Secures \$94 Million US Space Force Contract for Satellite Communications Support ***(SpaceNews)***

Iridium Communications, a provider of mobile satellite communications, on June 4 announced a new five-year contract valued at \$94 million—with a potential total value of \$103 million—to provide communication support services to the U.S. Department of Defense. The contract, awarded by the Space Systems Command's Commercial Space Office (COMSO) within the U.S. Space Force, is for ground infrastructure services in support of the Enhanced Mobile Satellite Services (EMSS) program.

Federal Agency Space News

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA Awards Advance Technologies for Future Habitable Worlds Mission (May 31, 2024)

NASA Lawyer Contributes to the Commercialization of Space (June 3, 2024)

NASA Awards University Research Projects to Support Agency Missions (June 4, 2024)

NASA to Change How It Points Hubble Space Telescope (June 4, 2024)

NASA Exploring Alternative Mars Sample Return Methods (June 7, 2024)

NASA Selects 2024 Small Business, Research Teams for Tech Development (June 11, 2024)

[NASA Selects Raytheon Company to Build Landsat Next Instruments](#) (June 12, 2024)

Federal Aviation Administration

[FAA to Receive Launch and Reentry Flight Data from Two More Companies](#) (June 7, 2024)

Federal Communications Commission

[FCC Changes Certain Space Station Regulatory Fees for FY 2024](#) (June 13, 2024)

U.S. Space Force

[Atlas V Starliner CFT Launches Astronauts for First Time From USSF Installation](#) (June 5, 2024)

[5th SOPS Activates, Bolsters Space Delta 9 Objectives](#) (June 6, 2024)

[10th FDS Activates, Enhances Delta 10 Mission](#) (June 6, 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)

[Information Collection: NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training Program Follow-Up Survey](#)

National Aeronautical and Space Administration

Close Date: August 5, 2024

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

Department of Defense

Close Date: June 21, 2024

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

[Pre-Solicitation Synopsis for Small Satellite Cross-Link Systems](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: June 21, 2024

[NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts \(NIAC\) Phase I](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: July 1, 2024

[Mechanical Systems Structural Analysis Support Services](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: July 12, 2024

[Living with a Star Science](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 13, 2024

Artificial Intelligence Applications in Heliophysics

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 20, 2024

Heliophysics U.S. Participating Investigator

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Jan 29, 2025

Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

FY2024 Regulatory Fees NPRM

Federal Communications Commission

Comment Date: July 15, 2024

International



Articles and Quotes

ESA-China Moon Cooperation Could End With Chang'e-6 (SpaceNews)

European-Chinese cooperation in lunar exploration could come to an end despite successful collaboration in the ongoing Chang'e-6 mission. The European Space Agency (ESA) provided a payload for China's Chang'e-6 complex lunar far side sample return mission that launched May 3. The mission aims to gather and return samples from the lunar far side, providing unprecedented insights into the moon's composition and history.

China's Secretive Spaceplane Conducts Proximity Operations with Small Spacecraft (SpaceNews)

China's experimental reusable spaceplane has been using a smaller spacecraft to test proximity operations, potentially even capturing the object. China launched its spaceplane for the third time via a Long March 2F rocket Dec. 14, 2023. The spacecraft released an object into orbit, first cataloged by U.S. Space Force space domain awareness teams May 24, following orbit-raising and months of stable operation.

Armenia Signs Artemis Accords (SpaceNews)

Armenia signed the Artemis Accords regarding safe and responsible space exploration June 12, the tenth country to do so this year. In a ceremony at NASA Headquarters, Mkhitar Hayrapetyan, minister of high-tech industry in the government of Armenia, signed the Accords. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson was in attendance along with officials from the U.S. State Department and Armenia's ambassador to the United States.

ESA and Vast to Study Cooperation on Future Commercial Space Stations (SpaceNews)

The European Space Agency has signed an agreement with Vast to study how the agency could use and support the company's commercial space stations. ESA and Vast signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) June 6 during the ILA Berlin air show, agreeing to study collaboration on the commercial space stations that Vast plans to develop, starting with the Haven-1 station Vast plans to launch in the second half of next year.

UNOOSA and APSCO Collaborate Under the Space Law for New Space Actors

Project (UNOOSA Press Release)

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO) have announced their collaboration under the Space Law for New Space Actors project. Together, the partners will deliver the "UNOOSA/APSCO Joint Technical Workshop on National Legislation for APSCO Member States 2023" that will take place from 12-15 June 2023 at the Vienna International Centre, Austria.

Report on European Union Space Contribution to the "Space2030" Agenda Launched (UNOOSA Press Release)

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), in partnership with the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA), are launching the report "Contribution to the 'Space2030 Agenda' - The European Union Space Programme 'EU Space' Supporting a world with a global population of 8 Billion people."

Upcoming Space Events

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:

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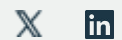


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