

Akin™

Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update

August 23, 2024

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Good Afternoon!

This is Akin's weekly policy newsletter on space policy and regulatory developments, providing information on major space headlines from this past week and forthcoming space-related events and hearings:

IAC Milan

Akin will be at IAC 2024 and we would love to meet with you in Milan. If you'd like to schedule a meeting with Akin, please email [Michael Mineiro](#). If you're not attending IAC but would still like to meet with the Akin team, email Michael and we will schedule a virtual meeting.

On The Hill

Articles and Quotes

Senate Bill Would Create Center to Study Satellite Interference with Astronomy. (Space News)

The U.S. Senate on August 1 introduced the Dark and Quiet Skies Act of 2024, aiming to create a center to study and mitigate satellite interference with astronomical observations. Sponsored by Sens. John Hickenlooper (D-CO) and Mike Crapo (R-ID), the bill directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to establish a “center of excellence” focused on reducing light and radio-frequency pollution from satellites. The center will collaborate with astronomers and satellite operators to develop best practices and conduct research projects. The bill authorizes \$20 million for the center from 2025 to 2029.

Introduced Legislation & Legislative Updates

Sens. John Hickenlooper (D-CO) and Mike Crapo (R-ID) introduced **S. 4952**, the Dark and Quiet Skies Act on Thursday, August 1. The Dark and Quiet Skies Act seeks to establish a center, overseen by NIST, tasked with researching, developing and deploying voluntary best practices for mitigating unintentional light and radio interference caused by orbiting satellites. The goal of the center would be to both conduct interdisciplinary research related to interference and to develop mitigation technology. Please see the bill text [here](#), one pager [here](#) and [press release](#) here.

Recent and Upcoming Congressional Hearings (Aug 26 - Sep 6, 2024)

There are no upcoming congressional hearings.

In the White House/Executive Branch



Articles and Quotes

Commerce IG Frets Delays in Transition of Space Monitoring from DoD ***(Breaking Defense)***

The Commerce Department's Inspector General raised concerns about delays in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Space Commerce (OSC) taking over space monitoring duties from the Department of Defense. The IG urged OSC to speed up its processes and set realistic goals to manage increasing on-orbit traffic. Despite Congress not yet granting OSC the legal authority to set binding rules, the IG emphasized the need for a robust plan to avoid service gaps for space operators.

Space Policy in a Harris Administration ***(Payload Space)***

As Vice President (VP) Kamala Harris prepares to accept the Democratic nomination this week, her work on space policy as VP may be telling as to what space policy priorities would exist in a Harris administration. As chair of the National Space Council, Vice President Harris oversaw several debates that signal a commitment to space sustainability and a commitment to the rule of law. While the Democratic party platform mentions space only in passing, a former administration official asserts a Harris administration would likely focus on responsible growth of the space industry, engagement with allies in orbit, and a national security space posture that protects U.S. interests.

Republican Former NASA Administrator Endorses Harris for President ***(Space News)***

Sean O'Keefe, NASA's top official from 2001 to 2004 under President George W. Bush and a Republican, announced his endorsement of Vice President Kamala Harris for president. At an online fundraising event on August 15, O'Keefe cited both Kamala's work on space issues and a lack of a traditional Republican opponent as reasons for his endorsement. He asserted that Harris' work as VP has maintained continuity in space policy and that she "supports space objectives to the benefit of all humankind." Emily Calandrelli, a science communicator, astronaut and co-speaker at the event, noted that support for space exploration and NASA is largely bipartisan.

Boeing Starliner Crew May Have to Wait Until 2025 to Return from Space Station: NASA ***(The Hill)***

NASA's Boeing Starliner crew, initially set for a 10-day mission, may remain on the International Space Station (ISS) until 2025 due to technical issues. The Starliner experienced thruster malfunctions during docking, prompting NASA to consider extending the astronauts' stay to up to eight months. NASA is evaluating whether to return the crew on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, with a decision expected by the end of August. A Boeing

spokesperson reiterated the company's confidence in Starliner's capabilities and flight rationale but expressed willingness to configure the spacecraft for an uncrewed return if called for by NASA.

U.S. Space Command Chief Expresses Support for Army's Space Initiatives *(Space News)*

The U.S. Space Command's top general, Gen. Stephen Whiting, has voiced support for the U.S. Army's efforts to expand its space expertise amidst criticism that such initiatives encroach on the Space Force's domain. His comments, delivered at a National Defense Industrial Association conference, came in response to an op-ed from the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies. The op-ed argued that the Army's space initiatives were duplicative and unnecessary, but Whiting stressed the significance of jointness in space operations between the branches.

US Announces Nearly \$300m for SAF *(Aerospace Global News)*

The FAA has announced nearly \$300 million in funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to support sustainable aviation projects. This initiative, part of President Biden's Investing in America Agenda, aims to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from aviation by 2050. The funding allocates \$244 million to 22 projects that aim to produce, blend, store and develop infrastructure for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in order to expand production and enhance supply chains.

FAA Postpones Hearings on Starship Environmental Review *(Space News)*

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has postponed public hearings on SpaceX's environmental review for increasing Starship launches from its Boca Chica, Texas, facility. The hearings, initially set for August 13, 15 and 20, were intended to gather input on a draft environmental assessment for increasing annual Starship launches from 5 to 25. The postponement follows reports of SpaceX discharging industrial wastewater without a permit, linked to the deluge system at the launch pad. The FAA is seeking additional information from SpaceX before rescheduling the hearings.

Space Force Payload Launches Aboard Allied Satellite in Historic First *(Air and Space Forces)*

The U.S. Space Force successfully launched two Arctic Satellite Broadband Mission (ASBM) satellites aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base on August 9, 2024. This historic launch marks the first time an operational Space Force payload has been deployed on a foreign-owned satellite. The satellites, procured by Space Norway, carry the Enhanced Polar Systems-Recapitalization (EPS-R) payloads, providing tactical, extremely high-frequency communications for U.S. forces in the Arctic. This collaboration aims to fill coverage gaps left by existing systems and demonstrates a cost-effective model for future international partnerships.

Lockheed Acquires Satellite Firm Terran Orbital in \$450 Million Deal *(Defense News)*

On August 15, Lockheed Martin announced it will be acquiring small-satellite provider Terran Orbital for \$450 million. The move is representative of a continually growing space portfolio for the company. The Department of Defense has put recent focus on acquiring smaller spacecraft built by firms outside of its traditional industrial base, a niche partially occupied by Terran. Historically the firm has focused on the development of low-Earth orbit satellites, but over the last year it has expanded its development into spacecraft for higher, geosynchronous orbits. The deal is expected to close by the end of the year.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

[NASA Marshall Names Roger Baird Associate Director](#) (August 20, 2024)

[NextSTEP R: Lunar Logistics and Mobility Studies](#) (August 19, 2024)

[NASA Invites Media to Watch Artemis II Rocket Adapter Roll Out](#) (August 14, 2024)

[NASA Seeks Input on Safety for Future Commercial Drone Operations](#) (August 13, 2024)

[New TEMPO Cosmic Data Story Makes Air Quality Data Publicly Available](#) (August 13, 2024)

[NASA to Provide Coverage of Progress 89 Launch, Space Station Docking](#) (August 12, 2024)

[NASA Explores Industry, Partner Interest in Using VIPER Moon Rover](#) (August 9, 2024)

[NASA Teams Change Brakes to Keep Artemis Crew Safe](#) (August 9, 2024)

[NASA Aircraft Gathers 150 Hours of Data to Better Understand Earth](#) (August 8, 2024)

U.S. Space Force

[Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force Visits Keesler AFB](#) (August 15, 2024)

[Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force Visits Vandenberg SFB](#) (August 14, 2024)

[SSC Senior Enlisted Leaders Discuss Leadership Roles at First-ever Summit](#) (August 14, 2024)

[Space Forces in Europe - Space Forces Africa Holds Change of Command Ceremony](#) (August 14, 2024)

[CSO, CMSSF Emphasize Development and Reoptimization During Guardian Conference](#) (August 13, 2024)

Federal Aviation Administration

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \\$300 Million in Awards for Sustainable Aviation Fuels and Technologies as part of Investing in America Agenda](#) (August 16, 2024)

International

Articles & Quotes

[China and Russia Hold Talks on 'Peaceful' Use of Outer Space](#) (*Yahoo Finance*)

On August 8, China and Russia held talks on the “peaceful use of outer space,” agreeing to boost cooperation in the sector. According to a statement from the Russian foreign ministry, the talks covered the agenda of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, international regulations and long-term space sustainability. The same statement noted that “[a]n agreement was reached to strengthen coordination in this area both bilaterally and at

specialised multilateral platforms.” These talks come after a June statement from Space Command chief General Stephen Whiting warning of increased space-related cooperation between Russia, China, North Korea and Iran.

International Astronomy Group Joins Calls for a Lunar Clock to Keep Time on the Moon (Associated Press)

The International Astronomical Union joined calls to give the moon its own clock when they voted on August 15 to encourage space organizations to collaborate on a lunar timekeeping standard. One day on the Moon lasts 29.5 earth days. The European Space Agency pushed last year for the creation of a lunar clock. And earlier this year, the White House directed NASA and other agencies to cobble together an initial idea by the end of the year with a final plan due by the end of 2026. Bijunath Patla, a physicist at NIST, noted that astronomers are still in the early stages of developing lunar time but that this marks a “beginning.”

Chinese Rocket’s Breakup Puts Over 1,000 Satellites and Other Objects at Risk (Reuters)

A Chinese Long March 6A rocket stage broke apart in space on August 7, 2024, creating over 700 pieces of debris. This debris cloud, located at approximately 800 km altitude, poses a collision risk to over 1,100 satellites and other objects in Earth’s orbit. The incident occurred after the launch of 18 internet satellites by the Chinese state-owned Shanghai Spacecom Satellite Technology. The cause of the breakup is unclear, with possibilities including a collision or an onboard explosion of unused rocket fuel. Similar to the 2022 Long March 6A debris event, the breakage has prompted Western criticism. Audrey Schaffer, VP of strategy at Slingshot Aerospace, said “These kinds of debris-generating events that are potentially avoidable should not occur anymore.”

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)

VIPER Rover Partnership Opportunity

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Close Date: Sep 2, 2024

Name of Information Collection: Survey of the Use of NASA Earth Observation Data by States, Tribes, and Territories

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Close Date: Sep 18, 2024

Information Collection; NASA Property in the Custody of Award Recipients and Property Management System Analysis (PMSA)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Close Date: Oct 21, 2024

Utilization of the Astrobee Free-flying Robotic System

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Close Date: September 27, 2024

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

3D Printed Hardware

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 27, 2024

Final Request for Proposal for NASA Suborbital/Hosted Orbital Flight and Payload Integration Services 4 (FO IDIQ 4)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Nov 1, 2024

Lunar Ultraviolet Spectrometer (LUVS) Partnership Opportunity

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Sep 12, 2024

ROSES 2024: A.24 Weather and Atmospheric Dynamics

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Nov 8, 2024

B.21 Heliophysics Citizen Science Investigations

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Nov 14, 2024

Engineering Development Units for In-Space Variable Output Regulator

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 19, 2024

Multi-Center Administrative Support Services (MCASS)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 27, 2024

ROSES 2024: A.32 Precipitation Measurements Mission and CloudSat and Calipso Science Team Re compete

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Nov 20, 2024

Consolidated Program Support Services (CPSS), Project Planning & Control (PP&C)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 30, 2024

Spaceport Operations and Center Services (SOCS)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Oct 31, 2024

GRC Altitude Combustion Stand Announcement for Proposal

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Nov 15, 2024

Integrated High-Vacuum Atomic Force Microscopy

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: Aug 28, 2024

Enabling Technologies for Electronic Warfare and Surveillance

Department of Defense
Close Date: Dec 20, 2024

2025 Request for White Papers: NASA SBIR Phase II Sequential Awards

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Close Date: Sep 23, 2024

Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

There were no new notices of proposed rules.

Upcoming Space Events

A Science Strategy for the Human Exploration of Mars

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine
August 26-28, 2024

Space: The Next Frontier of Strategic Competition

Space News
August 26, 2024

ISU-DC Space Cafe With Astroscale's Dennis Wille

International Space University
August 26, 2024

2024 Intelligence and National Security Summit

Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association/Intelligence and National Security Alliance
August 27-28, 2024

Weapons in Space: A Virtual Book Talk with Aaron Bateman

Center for Strategic and International Studies
August 28, 2024

Schriever Spacepower Series - USSPACECOM - 5th Anniversary Event

Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies
August 28, 2024

Debate Series - High Ground or High Fantasy: Defense Utility of Cislunar Space

Space Policy Institute
August 29, 2024

Interagency Nuclear Safety Review Board Meeting

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
August 29, 2024

NASA Advisory Committee Council HEO Committee Meeting (Public Participation Virtual)

Commercial Developments in Low Earth Orbit: Challenges and Opportunities

Space Policy Institute
September 6, 2024

Outer Space Security Summit

U.N. Institute for Disarmament Research
September 10-11, 2024

Global Aerospace Summit 2024

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
September 10-11, 2024

Space Sustainability Forum 2024

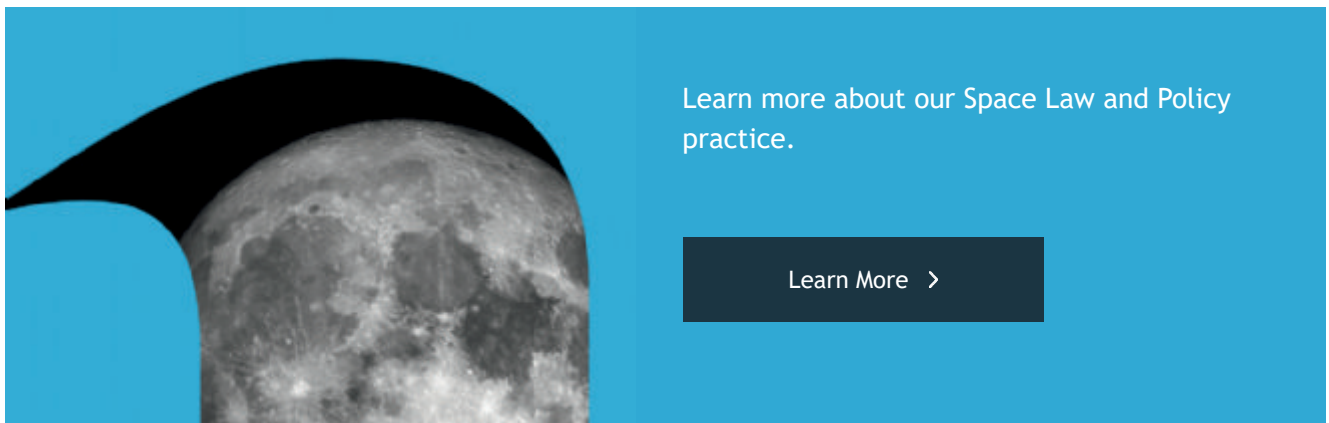
International Telecommunication Union
September 10-11, 2024

Air, Space & Cyber Conference 2024

Air and Space Forces Association
September 16-18, 2024

18th ESPI Autumn Conference

European Space Policy Institute
October 1-2, 2024



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Questions?

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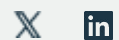


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