



## Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update

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Good Afternoon!

*The past couple of weeks in space policy news have been dominated by defense headlines. In the U.S., a “czar” was appointed to oversee the Golden Dome project and the Pentagon began looking into alternative launch providers for Space Force Missions. In Europe, news that increased defense spending has pushed EU space funding to all-time highs was overshadowed by the release of the draft EU Space Act this week, which puts forward a unified legal framework for EU space activities.*

*All this and more in this edition of Akin’s Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update.*

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### Akin Spotlight

Akin’s [Trump Executive Order Tracker](#) provides a high-level overview of executive orders published by the new administration. These orders cut across dozens of industries and topics. The Tracker is updated as orders and Akin’s in-depth analysis of specific orders are published.

Please visit Akin’s [Trump Executive Order Overview](#) to view a matrix of the orders

### On The Hill

#### Articles and Quotes

##### [House Appropriators Advance Defense Bill](#) (SpaceNews)

The House Appropriations Committee’s fiscal year (FY) 2026 defense spending bill allocates \$29 billion to the U.S. Space Force, exceeding the administration’s base request by \$2.7 billion and reflecting heightened congressional focus on space as a strategic and contested domain. The bill includes directives to reform the Space Force’s acquisition process by organizing programs by mission area, establishing mission-focused offices with full life cycle responsibility, and extending procurement tours to strengthen technical proficiency. The committee emphasized the service’s distinctive budget profile, noting that the majority of Space Force funding is dedicated to acquisition activities, a trend expected to continue with the advancement of programs such as the Golden Dome missile defense initiative.

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## Introduced Legislation & Legislative Updates

Sen. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) has **introduced** the Wildfire Coordination Act (**S. 2038**), which directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Wildfire Science and Technology Advisory Board.

Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO) has **introduced** the Wildfire Coordination Act (**H.R. 3923**) which directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Wildfire Science and Technology Advisory Board.

Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX) has **introduced** a bill to require the Discovery space shuttle to be transferred from the Smithsonian Institution to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas (**H.R. 4065**), which aims to relocate the space shuttle Discovery from the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Chantilly, Virginia, to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA) has **introduced** the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2026 (**H.R. 4016**), which makes appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026. This bill was **adopted** by the House Appropriations Committee 36 yeas to 27 nays.

*Please find our Space Legislation Tracker **here**.*

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## Recent and Upcoming Congressional Hearings

(June 27, 2025 - July 11, 2025)

On June 17, SAC-D held a closed **hearing** on the intelligence community's FY26 budget request.

Also on June 17, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) held a closed **briefing** on intelligence matters.

On June 18, the Senate Armed Services Committee held an open/closed **hearing** to receive testimony on the Department of Defense budget request for FY26 and the Future Years Defense Program.

On June 25, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee (CST) held a **markup** of the Space Commerce Advisory Committee Act (**S. 434**).

On June 26, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense held a **hearing** on the President's FY26 Budget Request for the Air Force and Space Force.

Also on June 26, SSCI held a closed **briefing** on intelligence matters.

## In the White House/Executive Branch

### Articles and Quotes

#### Trump Formally Nominates Guetlein as Golden Dome Czar (*Air & Space Forces*)

President Trump has formally nominated Space Force Gen. Michael Guetlein to serve as program manager for Golden Dome, a proposed \$175 billion missile defense initiative modeled after Israel's Iron Dome but scaled for U.S. homeland defense. Golden Dome would rely heavily on space-based assets, including advanced sensors and interceptors designed to detect and neutralize hypersonic and ballistic missile threats. Guetlein, a seasoned space acquisition and missile defense leader, will oversee integrating capabilities across agencies and services, though congressional scrutiny remains over feasibility, cost and technical readiness. The nomination elevates Guetlein from his role as Vice Chief of Space Operations to lead a complex, multi-domain effort spanning space, air, sea and land.

#### Pentagon to Consider SpaceX Alternative for Space Force Satellite Program (*SpaceNews*)

NASA and the Pentagon are accelerating efforts to support alternatives to SpaceX following a public feud between President Trump and Elon Musk that exposed the government's heavy reliance on a single contractor for critical space missions. Tensions escalated after Musk briefly threatened to halt Dragon spacecraft flights, which are essential to transporting astronauts to the International Space Station. Although he later reversed course, the incident raised alarm across federal agencies, underscoring the strategic vulnerability posed by SpaceX's dominance in crewed flights and national security launches. With competitors like Boeing, Blue Origin and Rocket Lab still lagging behind, officials are now pushing to diversify the launch ecosystem to protect mission continuity and reduce dependence on a single private company.

#### FCC Highlights National Security Role in Satellite Licensing Reforms (*SpaceNews*)

The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Space Bureau, led by Jay Schwarz, is overhauling satellite licensing procedures to more rapidly support both commercial innovation and U.S. national security, announced June 16 at MILSATCOM USA. Key reforms include a roughly 35% reduction in licensing backlog since January, updates to power-limit regulations for non-geostationary satellites to enable "fiber-like throughputs" and opening up to 20 gigahertz (GHz) of underused spectrum via a forthcoming Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Schwarz emphasized that while commercial goals drive these changes, they are equally aimed at ensuring secure, reliable communications for U.S. warfighters and strengthening dual-use capabilities.

### Federal Agency Space News

#### National Aeronautics and Space Administration

##### NASA Shares Axiom Mission 4 Launch Update (June 23, 2025)

[Week Starts with Pharma Research, Earth Observations, and Videography](#) (June 23, 2025)

[Parker Solar Probe Completes 24th Close Approach to Sun](#) (June 23, 2025)

[Digital Information Platform Collaboration](#) (June 18, 2025)

[NASA's Lunar Rescue System Challenge Supports Astronaut Safety](#) (June 17, 2025)

## International

### Articles & Quotes

#### [European Commission Introduces Proposal for EU Space Act](#) *(Via Satellite)*

On June 25, 2025, the European Commission proposed the European Union (EU) Space Act, a sweeping regulatory reform designed to unify and modernize Europe's fragmented space industry under a single legal framework. The proposal aims to create a unified market, bolster space safety through mandatory debris tracking and end-of-life satellite disposal, strengthen cybersecurity and resilience requirements, and mandate environmental and risk assessments for all space operators. It also introduces tiered obligations for mega- and giga-constellations, applies to non-EU companies servicing Europe, and includes industry support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Act now enters the EU's legislative pipeline, awaiting scrutiny and approval by the European Parliament and Council.

#### [NATO Releases Updated Defence Production Action Plan, Commercial Space Strategy and Rapid Adoption Action Plan](#) (NATO)

On June 24, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) released the public versions of three key initiatives: an Updated Defence Production Action Plan, the Alliance's first Commercial Space Strategy and a new Rapid Adoption Action Plan. The Commercial Space Strategy aims to streamline procurement processes, expand commercial partnerships and ensure reliable access to space-based capabilities across peacetime, crisis, and conflict. It reflects NATO's growing interest in integrating commercial space solutions into military operations while boosting innovation and industrial diversity across the Alliance. Together with the Rapid Adoption Action Plan, which accelerates the uptake of emerging technologies, and the production strategy focused on scaling industrial output, the new initiatives position NATO to enhance readiness and resilience amid evolving security challenges.

#### [Defense Drives EU Space Funding to Record Highs](#) *(Payload)*

European space ventures secured a record €1.5 billion in funding in 2024, a 56% increase from the previous year, driven largely by rising demand for defense capabilities and public-private investment. According to a report by the European Space Policy Institute, 40% of space funding went to companies with defense-aligned business models, underscoring how Russia's invasion of Ukraine and renewed U.S. defense posturing under President Trump have fueled European ambitions for strategic autonomy in space. Although Europe still trails the U.S. and China in overall space investment, the region is seeing rapid deal activity, greater public funding and

increased interest from generalist investors. Notable developments include France-based Look Up Space's €50 million Series A and expanded national funding mechanisms in Italy, the U.K. and Norway, positioning Europe for long-term growth in both commercial and defense-oriented space sectors.

*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)

### United States Space Force Operational Test & Training Infrastructure (OTTI) Satellite Communications Services Contract (CTC0388)

Department of Defense

Close Date: July, 9, 2025

### Request for Information (RFI) for Launch Equipment Test Facility (LETf)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: July 11, 2025

### Informed Consent Requirements for Crew and Space Flight Participants

Federal Aviation Administration

Close Date: July 24, 2025

### Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) Part 237, Service Contracting, and Related Clauses

Department of Defense

Close Date: August 5, 2025

## Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

### Marshall Exploration Facility (MEF)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: July 9, 2025

## Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

No new proposed NPRMs.

## Upcoming Space Events

**68th COPUOS Session**

United Nations

June 25-July 4, 2025

**Leadership Dinner with Gen. Michael Guetlein**

INSA

July 2, 2025

**Progress in Understanding the Pluto System**

LPI

July 14-18, 2025

**Moon Farside Protection Symposium**

IAA

July 15-16, 2025

**UK Space Conference 2025**

UK Space Agency

July 16-17, 2025

**Space Investors Symposium**

NSSA

July 17, 2025

**ASCEND 2025**

AIAA

July 22-24, 2025

**IAFI Space Policy Conference**

IAFI

July 24-25, 2025

**Securing Space: Threats, Strategic Roles and Building Resilience**

INSA

August 6, 2025

**39th Annual Small Satellite Conference**

SmallSat

August 10-13, 2025

**Outer Space Security Conference**

UNIDIR

September 9-10, 2025

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## Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

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