

Akin

Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update



April 05, 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

Lawmakers Cut \$1 Billion from Space Force's 2024 Budget Request (SpaceNews)

The fiscal year (FY) 2024 package approved in Congress last month including a \$1 billion spending reduction for the Space Force's procurement and research and development accounts. However, compared to FY2023, the Space Force received an overall budget increase of \$2.7 billion.

Senate Bills Seek to Reform Commercial Space Regulations (SpaceNews)

Two new bills were introduced in the Senate to reform commercial space regulations—one to extend the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Office of Commercial Space Transportation learning period by five years and a second to direct the FAA to streamline the commercial launch licensing process by incorporating industry input.

Sens. Cruz and Rosen Bill Will Unleash American Satellite Industry (Senate Commerce GOP)

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX), Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce Committee, stated that "In the rapidly changing space and satellite marketplace, more rocket launches and satellites are being deployed than ever before. Sadly, innovative companies that seek to expand broadband access to Americans face a regulatory process that is outdated leading to massive delays as they seek to deploy new satellite technologies. I am glad to be joined by Sen. Rosen (D-NV) in introducing this important legislation to ensure the FCC's burdensome administrative processes don't hold up commercial satellite applications that could help unserved communities connect to the internet."

Senator Schmitt, Senator Sinema, Introduce the Commercial SPACE Leadership Act (Sen. Schmitt)

“Greatness is achieved through good faith and collaboration, which is exactly what the Commercial SPACE Leadership Act aims to accomplish. By allowing private companies the leeway to drive and provide input on future commercial human space flight regulations, we are facilitating a new era that maintains and improves our competitiveness in space. Continuing the ‘light touch’ approach provided by the learning period and creating new areas for industry to provide input is crucial to supporting the commercial space sector and our nation’s larger space endeavors. Simply put, this bill keeps regulations at bay for another five years, allowing industry and the government to continue to work towards an eventual framework.”

Introduced Legislation

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) introduced the *Satellite and Telecommunications Streamlining Act* ([S. 4010](#)) to update the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) application process to remove regulatory barriers that could threaten investments in the U.S. commercial satellite industry.

Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-MO) introduced the *Commercial Standards Paramount to Accelerating Cosmic Exploration (SPACE) Leadership Act* ([S. 4064](#)) to extend the FAA’s learning period for the commercial space industry.

On March 22, 2024, Congress passed the Further Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2024 ([P.L. 118-47](#)), which funded six agencies, including the Department of Defense (DOD). The Defense portion of the bill included \$28.9 billion for the U.S. Space Force, which is \$2.5 billion more than last year’s Space Force budget but \$1.4 billion less than requested. Report language, which details how much funding each DOD program received, can be found [here](#).

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

Recent and Upcoming Congressional Hearings

March 25 - April 12, 2024

Senate

[A Review of the President's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request for the Air Force and Space Force](#)

Senate Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM ET

House of Representatives

No relevant House hearings.

In The Executive Branch



Articles and Quotes

[White House Directs NASA to Develop Lunar Time Standard \(SpaceNews\)](#)

The Policy on Celestial Time Standardization in Support of the National Cislunar Science and Technology Strategy directs the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to develop a strategy by the end of 2026 to create Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC), a new time standard based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) on Earth but adapted to operations on the moon.

DOD Issues First Commercial Space Integration Strategy. (Space Policy Online)

The strategy, released by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy John Plumb, seeks to ensure commercial solutions are available when needed by the DOD, integrate commercial solutions during peacetime to create seamless utilization during crisis and conflict, protect and defend threats to U.S. national security space interests—including, where appropriate, commercial space solutions—and support the development of new commercial space solutions that have the potential to support the joint force.

MSR Highlights Challenges of NASA Flagship Missions (SpaceNews)

At a House Science Space Subcommittee hearing on March 21, NASA officials detailed the agency's ongoing review of the Mars Sample Return program, sharing that the results of the reassessment should be available this spring.

Space Budget Experts Warn FY2025 May Be Even Worse for NASA (Space Policy Online)

Experts are warning that NASA's FY2025 budget cuts could be even worse than those seen in FY2024 due to caps imposed by the Fiscal Responsibility Act and competing national needs, such as preparations for the next census.

Defense Policy Chief John Plumb to Step Down in May. (SpaceNews)

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy John Plumb will be stepping down in early May. Plumb has served in this role for the last two years after being confirmed as the first Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy, a position established in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

Space Force, Space Command Seek Over \$2 Billion for Unfunded Programs to Counter Anti-Satellite Threats (SpaceNews)

The U.S. Space Force and U.S. Space Command submitted requests for \$1.1 billion and \$1.2 billion, respectively, for “unfunded requirements” for classified programs related to space control, space superiority and space domain awareness. The unfunded priorities list is provided each year by the military services to request funds for priorities and capabilities left out of the president's budget request.

Defense, Military, Intelligence Agencies, All Have a Hand in U.S. Space Acquisitions (SpaceNews)

A new **infographic** from the Aerospace Industries Association highlights the web of agencies that play major roles in national security space acquisition across the DOD and the intelligence community.

Officials Plan for New Age of Cyber Threats to Satellites (Politico)

The White House and Congress are increasingly concerned about the threat that cyberattacks may pose on American satellites in orbit. As a result, federal agencies such as the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) are planning to examine how to best shore up the cybersecurity of U.S. space systems.

Department of Defense

[Proliferation Remains Best Deterrence Against Threats to U.S. Space Access](#) (March 27, 2024)

[Ericsson Swears-in as First-Ever Assistant Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology](#) (March 29, 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)

[Private Remote Sensing Satellite Disposal and Debris Mitigation](#)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Close Date: April 8, 2024

[Promoting Supply Chain Resilience](#)

Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

Close Date: April 22, 2024

[NASA Hosted Payload Interface Guide \(HPIG\) for Proposers](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: April 30, 2024

[Space Technology Advanced Research-Fast-Tracking Innovative Software and Hardware \(STAR-FISH\) Advanced Research Announcement \(ARA\)](#)

Department of Defense

Close Date: April 23, 2025

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

[Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences 2024 \(ROSES-2024\)](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: May 15, 2025

Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

[Space Innovation; Facilitating Capabilities for In-Space Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing](#)

Federal Communications Commission

Close Date: April 29, 2024

International



Articles and Quotes

[Space Is the New 'Wild West.' The EU Is Dying to Step In and Regulate.](#)

(Politico Europe)

The European Union (EU) is expected to propose the world's first comprehensive space law in the coming weeks. According to POLITICO, EU diplomats have already been briefed on plans to create an EU Space Label to designate the companies that play by the rules on space sustainability and safety.

China Adds New Moon Base Project Partners, but Struggles to Attract National-Level Participation (SpaceNews)

China recently announced a memorandum of understanding with the Asociación de Astronomía de Colombia (ASASAC) to cooperate on China's International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), adding another international partner to the initiative. However, China has failed to attract countries themselves to sign cooperation agreements—to date, only Egypt has signed such an agreement—demonstrating the impact of geopolitics on Chinese space ambitions.

Russia, China Catching Up to U.S. in Space Weaponry, New Report Finds (SpaceNews)

On April 2, the Secure World Foundation released its **annual report**, “Global Counterspace Capabilities: An Open Source Assessment.” The report details the counterspace capabilities being developed by a dozen countries and found that Russia and China are rapidly catching up to the United States (U.S.) in key areas including space domain awareness and space-based electronic warfare.

Send Robots into Space Rather than People, Says Britain's Astronomer Royal (Reuters)

During an interview with the Lord Speaker's Corner podcast, which features members of Britain's upper house of parliament, Astronomer Royal Martin Rees stated that he is “skeptical about the idea of a human space flight being worthwhile,” suggesting that robots be used instead and that space travel be privately funded rather than paid for by taxpayers.

Upcoming Space Events

2024 Space Symposium

Space Foundation

April 8 - 11, 2024

63rd session of the Legal Subcommittee

United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

April 15 - 26, 2024

Counterspace Trends: An Evolving Global Landscape

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and Secure World Foundation

Wednesday, April 17 at 9:00 AM ET

Satellite Spectrum Coordination

FCC Space Bureau Transparency Initiative

Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 10:30 AM ET

The Business of Space Conference: Economics, Commerce, and Sustainability of New Space

Meeting

FAA Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee (COMSTAC)

Tuesday, April 23 at 9:00 AM ET

COSMIC Convergence

The Consortium for Space Mobility and ISAM Capabilities (COSMIC)

May 15 - 16, 2024



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Questions?

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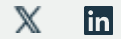
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