

Akin™

# Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update

January 12, 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 and forthcoming space-related events and hearings:*

## On The Hill

### Articles and Quotes

#### **Where lawmakers think space policy is headed in 2024 (Fast Company)**

“Space is a competitive arena, and America can’t afford to fall behind to adversaries like the Chinese Communist Party. The need for American leadership will underlie all of our legislative efforts in the new year.” - House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Chair Frank Lucas (R-OK)

#### **Alabama lawmakers vow to keep fighting on Space Command, and it could involve Trump (Politico)**

House Armed Services Chair Mike Rogers (R-AL) is vowing to use the next defense policy bill to move the U.S. Space Command to Alabama. He told reporters, “We’ve got two paths, both of which are good. One, the IG – inspector general – can come back and say what we know they’re gonna say, which justifies us going forward with building in Huntsville. And if that [does] not happen, Trump’s gonna be there. He’s going to enforce what the secretary of the Air Force said under his administration and the secretary of the Air Force said under Biden’s administration. That is, Huntsville won the competition ... and that’s where it should be and that’s where he’s going to build it.”

#### **Senate Approves Whiting, Guetlein Promotions, Extends FAA “Learning Period” (Space Policy Online)**

Just prior to leaving for the holiday recess, the Senate approved the military promotions of two critical national security space officials—Lt. Gen. Stephen Whiting, the new commanders of U.S. Space Command, and Lt. Gen. Michael Guetlein, the Vice Chief of Space Operations. In addition, the Senate extended the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) learning period for commercial human spaceflight until March 8, 2024.

#### **Amid Exponential Growth of Space Launches From Vandenberg, Rep. Carbajal Highlights Measure Allowing Space Force To Recoup Base Upkeep Costs From**

## **Space Launch Companies (Rep. Salud Carbajal)**

A new authority proposed by Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA) that allows the Space Force to share more of the upkeep costs of bases and launch ranges with commercial space companies utilizing those ranges was included in the final National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) text.

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## **Introduced Legislation**

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

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## **Recent and Upcoming Congressional Hearings**

**December 18, 2023 - January 19, 2024**

### **Senate**

*No relevant recent or upcoming Senate hearings.*

### **House of Representatives**

*No relevant recent or upcoming House hearings.*

## **In The Executive Branch**



## **Articles and Quotes**

### **American Company's Spacecraft Malfunctions on Its Way to the Moon (New York Times)**

Astrobotic's Peregrine lunar lander, which was launched by the United Launch Alliance's (ULA) Vulcan as part of the first National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)-financed commercial mission to the moon, is unlikely to make it to the moon after the lunar lander experienced propulsion system errors.

### **NASA delays Artemis Astronaut Moon Missions (New York Times)**

NASA is postponing the Artemis 2 and 3 crewed moon missions to address technical issues. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson stated that "Safety is our top priority. To give Artemis teams more time to work through the challenges with first-time developments, operations and integration, we're going to give more time on Artemis 2 and 3."

### **Space Force on the verge of finalizing long-awaited commercial space strategy (SpaceNews)**

The U.S. Space Force has nearly finalized its strategy document that seeks to guide the integration of the commercial space industry into the Space Force's operations.

### **National Space Council meeting emphasizes international cooperation (SpaceNews)**

At the National Space Council's December 20, 2023 meeting, the White House highlighted the progress that has been made to deepen international space partnerships, which

according to Vice President Kamala Harris will be “one of the primary ways we will continue to extend” space leadership.

### **White House releases mission authorization policy framework (SpaceNews)**

The White House released a policy framework to accompany the legislative proposal for mission authorization it released on November 15. The policy framework is intended to serve as a companion to the legislation to “enable the Executive Branch to better prepare for and shape the future space regulatory environment.”

### **NASA adds funding to Blue Origin and Voyager Space commercial space station agreements (SpaceNews)**

On January 5, NASA announced that it added a combined \$99.5 million in funding to existing Space Act Agreements with Blue Origin and Voyager Space, both of which are working on commercial space station concepts through NASA’s Commercial Low Earth Orbit Destinations program.

### **NASA Bets on Private Companies for Moon Landings in 2024 (Wall Street Journal)**

Five lunar landers made by U.S. companies with NASA devices on board are due to land on the moon in 2024.

### **NASA’s moon landing mission will include a non-American, Harris says (Politico)**

During a National Space Council meeting in late December, Vice President Kamala Harris announced that an astronaut from another country will join the U.S. Artemis team.

### **Musk’s SpaceX seeks to blow up federal labor enforcer (Politico)**

SpaceX has sued the NLRB, alleging the federal agency’s structure violates Article 2 of the U.S. Constitution. The move comes after the NLRB filed a complaint against SpaceX.

### **Federal agencies caught in environmental crossfire over Starship launches (SpaceNews)**

A coalition of environmental groups filed a supplemental legal claim in federal court regarding the licensing of launches from SpaceX’s Starbase, arguing that the FAA failed to properly analyze the environmental impacts of the first Starship launch before issuing a license for the second launch.

## **Federal Agency Space News**

### **Department of Defense**

**New Army space vision defines roles and missions** (January 8, 2024)

### **Department of Commerce**

**Biden-Harris Administration Announces CHIPS Preliminary Terms with Microchip Technology to Strengthen Supply Chain Resilience for America’s Automotive, Defense, and Aerospace Industries** (January 4, 2024)

### **National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

**NASA Leadership Participates in Vice President-Chaired National Space Council Meeting** (December 20, 2023)

**NASA Administrator, Leaders to Discuss Artemis Moon Mission Plans** (January 5, 2024)

[NASA Adjusts Agreements to Benefit Commercial Station Development](#) (January 5, 2024)

[NASA Science Heads to Moon on First US Private Robotic Artemis Flight](#) (January 8, 2024)

[NASA Shares Progress Toward Early Artemis Moon Missions with Crew](#) (January 9, 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)

[Improving the Usability of the Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Science \(ROSES\) NASA Research Announcement \(NRA\)](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: January 24, 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)

[NASA Academic Mission Services 2 \(NAMS-2\)](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: January 22, 2024

[Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences \(ROSES\) 2023](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: February 6, 2024

[United States Deorbit Vehicle](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: February 12, 2024

[NASA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research \(EPSCoR\) Rapid Response Research \(R3\) Opportunity](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: February 26, 2024

## Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

*No NPRMs currently published.*

International



Articles and Quotes

## **China completes new commercial launch pad to boost access to space** ***(SpaceNews)***

On December 29, China's Hainan Commercial Launch Site was completed. The launch pad will host liquid propellant launch vehicles and is expected to ease a bottleneck of access to launch facilities for both national and commercial launch service providers.

## **Russia extends cross-flight programme with NASA until 2025 - Roscosmos** ***(Reuters)***

Russia's state space agency said on December 28 that a cross-flight program with NASA to the International Space Station has been extended until 2025.

## **Russia arrests head of space equipment maker on suspicion of major fraud** ***(Reuters)***

On December 22, Yevgeny Fomichev, the head of a company that makes navigation systems for Russia's space program, was arrested in Moscow and charged with large-scale fraud.

## **(Space) Ships Passing in the Night: Translating Maritime Rules of the Road for the Space Domain** (The Aerospace Corporation's Center for Space Policy and Strategy)

The Center for Space Policy and Strategy released a paper that suggests ways to mitigate the likelihood of collisions in space.

# Upcoming Space Events

## **Paper Release: Securing Cislunar Space and the First Island Off the Coast of Earth**

The Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies

Wednesday, January 17 at 9:00 AM ET

## **Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee**

National Science Foundation

January 18 - 19, 2024

## **Tactically Responsive Space: A Holistic Approach**

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Friday, January 19 at 2:00 PM ET

## **Global Spaceport Alliance Spaceport Summit**

GSA

Monday, January 29, 2024

## **Space Mobility Conference**

U.S. Space Force and Space Systems Command

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

## **50th Space Congress**

U.S. SpaceCom

January 30 - February 1, 2024

## **Space Beach Law Lab**



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### Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

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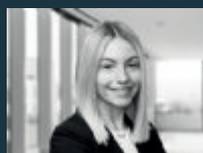
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