

Akin™

Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update

October 20, 2023

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We are excited to announce the launch of Akin's Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update, our newsletter focused on global space policy. Each issue explores the emerging trends and regulations in space law and policy, and what that means for your business and the industry.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue which provides information on major space headlines from the past week and forthcoming space-related events and hearings. We thank you for your interest.

On The Hill

Articles and Quotes

[SpaceX to the FAA: The industry needs you to move faster \(Washington Post\)](#)

On October 18, the Senate Commerce Committee held a **hearing** titled “Promoting Safety, Innovation, and Competitiveness in U.S. Commercial Human Space Activities,” where a SpaceX executive told members of Congress that they must urge the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to issue space launch licenses faster.

[SpaceX Warns Government Regulations Slowing Starship, Could Let China Get Ahead \(SpacePolicyOnline\)](#)

Industry representatives from SpaceX, Virgin Galactic and Blue Origin told Congress that the commercial space industry is at an “inflection point,” warning the senators that failure to ensure that government regulations do not stifle the industry’s growth could lead to China getting ahead in space.

[Rogers Opening Statement at Hearing on the Biden Administration’s Political Manipulation of Space Command Basing Process \(HASC\)](#)

At a full committee hearing on September 28, Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC), stated that the Biden administration “has chosen to play politics with our national security” in choosing to base the U.S. Space Command in Colorado Springs.

[Stopgap spending bill includes FAA learning period extension \(Space News\)](#)

The Continuing Resolution (CR) that passed on September 30 to keep the government funded through November 17 included a three-month reauthorization of the FAA. Among the provisions in the reauthorization was a three-month extension of the restrictions on the

FAA's ability to regulate safety for commercial spaceflight participants. That extension now expires on January 1, 2024.

Rogers Applauds Work of Strategic Posture Commission (HASC)

HASC Chair Mike Rogers (R-AL) thanked the Bipartisan Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States for their [report](#) on the long-term strategic posture of the U.S. military. The report recommended that the United States “urgently deploy a more resilient space architecture and adopt a strategy that includes both offensive and defensive elements to ensure U.S. access to and operations in space.”

Introduced Legislation

No relevant legislation introduced.

Upcoming Congressional Hearings

October 23-27, 2023

Senate

No relevant Senate hearings.

House of Representatives

No relevant House hearings.

In The White House/Executive Branch



Articles and Quotes

NASA's Journey to a Metal-Rich Asteroid Blasts Off (Wall Street Journal)

On October 13, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Psyche spacecraft launched on its mission to the Psyche asteroid, which it is expected to reach in roughly six years. The craft will examine the asteroid to understand its metal composition.

NASA considering budget cuts for Hubble and Chandra space telescopes (SpaceNews)

NASA is studying cuts to the operating budgets of the Chandra X-Ray Observatory and Hubble Space Telescope to preserve funding for other priorities. The potential cuts are driven by the expectation that NASA's fiscal year (FY) 24 budget will stay at FY23 levels.

Army exploring new options to tap commercial satellite networks (SpaceNews)

At the U.S. Army's largest annual trade show, satellite operators reported that the Army expressed a desire to utilize commercial satellite networks to help their global network of satellites communicate more effectively.

Government funding blunts impact of private investment decline (SpaceNews)

The impact of the decline in private investment in the space industry has been blunted by increasing government funding for space programs and a changed approach to the U.S. government's purchasing of space-related products and services.

Atomos wins \$1.6 million AFWERX contract to test multi-party rendezvous (SpaceNews)

AFWERX, a Technology Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory, awarded Atomos Space a \$1.6 million contract to establish a testing facility for multi-party rendezvous and proximity operations.

DISH gets first-ever space debris fine over EchoStar-7 (Reuters)

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued its first space debris enforcement fine of \$150,000 for DISH, which failed to properly de-orbit its satellite. The FCC stated that the company's actions "could post orbital debris concerns."

NASA Names New Head of Technology, Policy, Strategy (NASA)

Charity Weeden was announced as the associate administrator for NASA's Office of Technology, Policy and Strategy (OTPS), effective immediately.

FAA Closes Blue Origin Mishap Investigation (Federal Aviation Administration)

The FAA has closed its investigation into the Blue Origin New Shepard 23 mishap, finding that the "proximate cause of the mishap was a structural failure of an engine nozzle caused by higher than expected engine operating temperatures." The FAA stated that once Blue Origin implements all corrective actions, it can receive a license modification from the FAA to allow a resumption of launches.

Space Force goal of a multi-vendor space network called impractical (SpaceNews)

Telecommunications and space industry executives cast doubt on the viability of a plan to develop an "outernet" to interconnect commercial and government satellite networks into a "hybrid" space architecture.

U.S. Space Force awards Booz Allen \$630 million contract for satellite systems support (SpaceNews)

Booz Allen Hamilton won a seven-year, \$630 million contract from the U.S. Space Force for systems engineering and integration of satellite systems used for missile warning, environmental monitoring and surveillance.

Comtech wins \$48 million U.S. Army contract for satellite modems (SpaceNews)

New York-based Comtech Telecommunications won a \$48.6 million contract to develop a satellite modem that can connect to multiple networks. The new equipment will allow the U.S. military to access services that operate in different orbits and frequencies.

Federal Agency Space News

U.S. Space Force

DAF Publishes Comprehensive Strategy for the Space Force (October 13, 2023)

Department of Commerce

Remarks by Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves at The Economist's Space Economy Summit (October 12, 2023)

Department of Defense

[DLA Energy Supports Space Missions From Coast to Coast](#) (October 2, 2023)

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)

[Request for Information for Defensive Cyber Operations for Space](#)

Department of Defense

Close Date: October 24, 2023

[Spaceborne Antenna Array Technology Request for Information \(RFI\)](#)

Department of Defense

Close Date: November 17, 2023

[Request for Information for Future Commercial LEO Destinations - Requirements and Standards](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: November 17, 2023

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

[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: November 1, 2023

[USSF/SSC Micro Geostationary Earth Orbit \(MicroGEO\) Sources Sought](#)

Department of Defense

Close Date: November 16, 2023

Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

[Mitigation Methods for Launch Vehicle Upper Stages on the Creation of Orbital Debris](#)

Federal Aviation Administration

Close Date: December 26, 2023

International



Articles and Quotes

[India aims to send astronaut to the moon by 2040](#) (Reuters)

After their successful landing of a spacecraft near the moon's south pole in August, India's government said they plan to launch a space station by 2030 and send an astronaut to the moon by 2040.

North Korea says military satellite key to countering U.S. 'space militarisation' (Reuters)

In an article published in the state media, a researcher from North Korea's National Aerospace Technology Administration said the nation's spy satellite program is an "indispensable" measure to counter U.S. space militarization aimed at beefing up preemptive nuclear strike capability.

A Cosmic celebration: 74th International Astronautical Congress kicks off in Baku (Eureporter)

The 74th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) began in Baku, Azerbaijan on October 2. Delegates from across the world met to discuss the development of the space industry and to emphasize the need for cooperation.

Artemis Accords signatories seek to boost transparency and safety in lunar exploration (SpaceNews)

Representatives from NASA, Poland's POLSA, and Japan's JAXA space agencies met at the International Astronautical Congress on October 3 to continue efforts to establish principles for safe and sustainable space exploration.

Russia pinpoints cause of moon shot failure, looks to bring next missions forward (Reuters)

Roscosmos stated that a malfunction of an on-board control unit caused its lunar lander to crash into the moon on August 19. The control unit failed to turn off the propulsion system, resulting in the craft hurtling into the lunar surface. Roscosmos is considering moving forward its next launches as a result.

China to send new modules and co-orbiting spacecraft to Tiangong space station (SpaceNews)

China announced it plans to send new modules to its Tiangong space station in coming years. The expansion will include new experiment modules and inflatable modules that will serve as potential habitats and preliminary verification for crewed lunar exploration.

ITU's Handbook on Small Satellites: Advancing the global satellite industry (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) released a new **Handbook on Small Satellites** to offer insight and guidance on design, launch, and operation of this rapidly advancing segment of the space industry.

Upcoming Space Events

UN/WHO International Conference on Space and Global Health

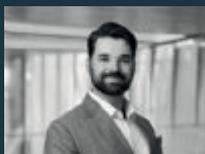
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
November 1-3, 2023

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Questions?

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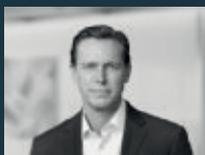
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