



ASSURING AMERICA'S LEADERSHIP IN
MARCH & THE STORM
2025 OBJECTIVES



MEETING AGENDA

- **About ASD**
- **Our Goals**
- **Primary Objectives**
- **Secondary Objectives**
- **Closing/Discussion**

ABOUT ASD

WHO WE ARE

Private U.S. citizens advocating, at our own expense, for a bold and well-reasoned space agenda, worthy of the United States.

NONPROFIT SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

- National Space Society
- Space Frontier Foundation
- Foundation for the Future
- Lifeboat Foundation
- The Mars Foundation
- The Mars Society
- The Moon Society
- NewSpace Nexus
- International Space Elevator Consortium
- Space Development Foundation
- Space Development Network
- Space Development Steering Committee
- Space Renaissance USA
- Space Tourism Society
- Students for the Exploration and Development of Space
- United States Space Force Association



OUR GOALS

- **Reduce the cost of access to space**
- **Stimulate and accelerate the growth of space industries and commerce**
- **Make the development and settlement of space a clearly defined part of why we send humans into space**

We thank **Senators Eric Schmitt, Ted Cruz, Maria Cantwell, and former Senator Kyrsten Sinema**, as well as the Senate Armed Services Committee, and House Armed Services and House Science, Space & Technology Committees **for extending the Human Spaceflight Learning Period** as a provision within the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

This will stop premature regulation of commercial human spaceflight without flight data demonstrating a safety issue, and keep DOT/FAA/AST focused on **protecting public safety!**

THANK YOU!

2025 OBJECTIVES

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- Elevate the Office of Space Commerce out of NOAA to become a separate agency or Bureau in the Department of Commerce
- Elevate the Office of Commercial Space Transportation out of the Federal Aviation Administration so that it reports directly to the Secretary of Transportation
- Support a gapless transition from the ISS to commercial LEO stations

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

- Support Space-based Solar Power by including it in the National Defense Authorization Act
- Reintroduction and Passage of the ORBITS Act
- Pursue legislation expressing Congressional support for commercial space development as an organizing goal of U.S. space policy

2025 OBJECTIVES:

ELEVATE THE OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE

- The Office of Space Commerce was created by the Commercial Space Act of 1998 (51 USC 507) to foster economic growth, coordinate Commerce Department space policies and actions, advocate for U.S. industry abroad, and promote geospatial and position, navigation, and timing (PNT) technologies and interagency PNT planning.
- The Office currently also licenses commercial remote sensing systems and has been tasked with building a civilian Space Situational Awareness system.
- The Office currently resides within NOAA, but its responsibilities and the Department's space capabilities actually cut across several Commerce Department Bureaus (NOAA, NIST, NTIA, ITA, BIS, etc.).
- While the office is growing to pursue its broader and increasingly important responsibilities, it should directly report to the Secretary to influence the entire Department's space portfolio, either as a distinct agency or a new Bureau of Space Commerce (with a Senate-confirmed Assistant Secretary).
- In late 2018, the Senate passed, via UC, the Space Frontier Act which elevated OSC to become a new Bureau with an Assistant Secretary and a strengthened mandate, but the legislation failed to win the 2/3 support in the House at the end of the session.

2025 OBJECTIVES:

RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT S.428 AND SIMILAR BILLS

- The Department of Commerce is the logical location for the bulk of federal oversight and promotion of commercial space activities.
- The Department needs a core of space experts and capabilities who can work across the bureaus and with other depts and agencies.
- The Secretary should quickly elevate the office administratively by reorganization, and then the Congress should create a new Bureau of Space Commerce in Statute by modifying 51 U.S.C. §50701 et seq.
- The Senate has passed two broader bills that did this: S. 3277 in 2018 and S. 3658 in 2024. The latter has been reintroduced as S.428.

ASK: *“Will you support elevating the Office of Space Commerce to a full bureau reporting directly to the Commerce Secretary?”*

2025 OBJECTIVES:

CHALLENGE: OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION NEEDS SUPPORT

51 U.S.C. §50901 et seq. gives the Secretary of Transportation authority for licensing space launches & reentries, spaceports

- OCST was created in DOT's Office of Secretary in 1983 where it stayed until 1996 when it was 'demoted' to become a unit within the FAA. This administrative change was never codified into law
- FAA/AST's budget and staffing have grown by factor of 10 since 1996, but still has not kept pace with industry's fast growth/innovation over past 15 years. This is at least partly because OCST is buried inside the FAA

...but Aviation & Space Transportation are very different industries

- Aviation is over 120 years old and has been regulated since 1926 while the commercial space industry is barely 30 and first commercial orbital human flight was just 5 years ago
- Aviation is a **common carrier** transportation mode, with the highest presumption of safety to protect passengers, and FAA has not **promoted** aviation since 1996
- The emerging commercial space transportation industry is dynamic and rapidly growing. It needs an independent regulator to protect uninvolved public but allow industry to continue to advance quickly, especially new providers with innovative technologies

2025 OBJECTIVES:

RECOMMENDATION: ELEVATE THE OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION OUT OF THE FAA

Space transportation is now a distraction for the FAA

- FAA needs to focus on passenger safety and modernization of air traffic control
- Space needs a different approach: protect public safety while allowing people to risk their payloads/themselves by going to space
- Unlike aviation, which needs to be ultra-careful to protect passengers, space needs a more organic/adaptive regulatory system that utilizes industry expertise. This creates a cultural conflict within the FAA, undermining safety, so separate them

Space transportation needs its own agency within DOT

- Needs to focus on timely licensing to ensure public safety, innovation, competition
- Needs a more flexible rulemaking process to keep up with industry

We support H.R. 6131 and H.R. 10320 from 118th Congress

- H.R. 6131 was comprehensive commercial space legislation, but had a bipartisan provision enabling industry to help fund extra licensing personnel
- H.R. 10320 (Kiley) creates a Commercial Space Transportation Administration

ASK: *“Will you support elevating FAA/AST to a separate agency reporting directly to the Secretary through reintroduction of bills like H.R. 6131 and H.R. 10320?”*

2025 OBJECTIVES:

CHALLENGE: THE UNITED STATES CANNOT AFFORD A LEO HABITATION GAP

- The International Space Station scheduled to come to an end around 2030
- Currently, NASA's plan for replacing the ISS is to fund the development of at least two station providers, and then purchase services from those providers as needed
- ASD supports retaining the ISS until the commercial providers come online, and supports the continued development funding of at least two station providers
- In the event of a proposal to deorbit ISS sooner, there will need to be funding increases to ensure there is no gap in LEO habitation
- **This would ensure that the Chinese are not the only station provider in the 2030s**

2025 OBJECTIVES:

RECOMMENDATION: HELP GROW AND PROMOTE LEO COMMERCIALIZATION

- The Alliance for Space Development is requesting Congress to encourage Presidential leadership by asking President Trump and Administrator-designate Issacman to move aggressively to support these commercial space stations
- The letter to President Trump asks him to use his position to encourage broad private investment and utilization the LEO environment for economic growth
- The letter to Administrator-designate Issacman encourages him to start the service portions of NASA's commercial space station contracts

ASK: *“Will your Office sign the letters to the President and to the Administrator-designate to help ensure Commercial Space Stations are successful?”*

2025 OBJECTIVES:

CHALLENGES - SPACE SOLAR POWER HAS NO HOME ORGANIZATION

Space Solar Power (SSP) involves placing satellites in space to collect power from the sun, 24/7/365, and wirelessly beaming it to any point on Earth, in space, or on the Moon. While China, Japan, the U.K., and the EU, all have active SSP programs, the U.S. has no plan to pursue SSP.

There have been various uncoordinated government efforts:

- DOD (Air Force and Navy Research Lab) explored solar cells, power-beaming, and incremental demos
- Privately funded demonstrations by Caltech
- Some U.S. commercial entities, but no sustained interest or a clear roadmap to commercial advancement

“The energy collected in one year would be equivalent to the total amount of oil that can be extracted from the Earth.”

- Chinese Academy of Engineering, 2025

2025 OBJECTIVES:

RECOMMENDATION - INCLUDE SPACE SOLAR POWER IN THE NDAA

In 2025, NDAA should strongly support AFRL's SSP technology development, engage DARPA, and USSF to highlight its utility, and empower U.S. commercial SSP efforts.

AFRL

- Fund \$30M in FY25 for SPIDER ARACHNE project to advance SSP with a key flight demonstration
- Fund \$30M in FY25 to issue grants fostering space-to-ground power beaming prototypes

DARPA

- Craft a concept of operations and work with Space Systems Command to steer future investments in commercial SSP architectures
- Expand the POWER project to beam energy between satellites and launch a new effort to transmit power from space to Earth

Space Warfighting Analysis Center

- Assess early military utility of SSP

U.S. Space Command

- Lead interagency studies on its strategic impact

USSF

- Fast-track deployment through the Space Development Agency and Space Rapid Capabilities Office to establish and maintain U.S. dominance
- Explore buying power beaming as a service while assessing its military uses
- Do a one year study with the DOE on Space based Solar Power

NASIC

- Track foreign advancements in space power

DoD Operational Energy Office

- Invest in scalable photovoltaic and wireless power technologies to keep the U.S. ahead

ASK: *“Will you support adding language via the National Defense Authorization Act supporting space solar power?”*



2025 OBJECTIVES:

CHALLENGE: ORBITAL DEBRIS IS BECOMING DANGEROUS

- There are approximately 8,000 metric tons of debris currently in orbit, including at least 900,000 individual pieces of debris that are potentially lethal to satellites
- These threaten everything from the International Space Station to military satellites to small test satellites
- The United States must take an active role in addressing the Orbital Debris situation, and ensure that space is available to use for the future

2025 OBJECTIVES:

RECOMMENDATION: REINTRODUCE AND PASS THE ORBITS ACT

The ORBITS Act will jumpstart a program focused on research, development, and the demonstration of technologies capable of safely carrying out successful Active Debris Remediation (ADR) missions. More specifically, the legislation will:

- Direct NASA, in coordination with the Departments of Commerce, Defense, and the National Space Council, to publish a list of debris objects that pose the greatest risk to the safety of orbiting spacecraft and on-orbit activities;
- Direct NASA to establish a demonstration program to partner with industry in developing technology for remediating debris objects through repurposing or removal from orbit;
- Encourage the U.S. government to buy ADR services from industry partners once they succeed in the demonstration and are commercially available;
- Direct the National Space Council to update the Orbital Debris Mitigation Standard Practices (ODMSP) used by U.S. government space missions; and
- Direct the Department of Commerce, in coordination with the National Space Council and the FCC, to develop and promote standard practices for avoiding near misses and collisions between spacecraft in orbit.

ASK: *“Will you support the reintroduction of the ORBITS Act and its passage?”*

CITIZENS' SPACE AGENDA

CHALLENGE: CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE ACTIVITIES IS NEEDED

- Commercial Space Development represents **a new and promising phase of the U.S. space enterprise.**
 - In addition to Presidential leadership, we are asking for a strong and bipartisan sense of Congress that notes the exciting developments within Commercial Space, and lays out a vision for its future.
 - This will help federal agencies, companies, and NGOs to work on integrating their plans.
 - It will also **support and encourage a strong U.S. response to China's proposals** for large scale space development.

CITIZENS' SPACE AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION: SENSE OF CONGRESS RESOLUTION FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE

It is the sense of Congress that American industry has shown that it is ready and eager to ambitiously move forward with major space development activities and American Government does best when it sets goals, facilitates American industry, encourages competition, and supports innovation. Therefore, the United States Government should support and encourage American industry, together with allied nations, and backed by private investors to demonstrate an ever-expanding set of capabilities and missions including but not limited to:

1. Launch at least one commercially owned and operated space station with human occupation by 2028, at least two by the time the ISS is deorbited with continuous heartbeats in orbit by 2030
2. Launch a commercially developed and managed asteroid capture mission and mining technologies test by 2028
3. Land and return a commercially owned and operated human lunar lander by 2028
4. Demonstrate the transmission of at least 10 kilowatts of Space-based Solar Power to an Earth-based receiver by 2030
5. Launch a human mission to Mars by 2032
6. Sustainably and continuously develop the permanent human occupation and industry presence on the lunar surface by 2034

ASK: *“Will you support including this sense of Congress in a future space bill?”*