



## Promote national policies and programs to enable Operationally Responsive Space Capabilities for U.S. War fighters

The Aerospace Industries Association of America represents 300 aerospace manufacturing companies and a U.S. workforce of more than 635,000.

Our nation's space industry generates over \$41 billion dollars a year.

U.S. aerospace and aviation industries represent approximately 10 percent of the GDP.

### BACKGROUND

**Operationally Responsive Space (ORS) offers a means to transform the services provided to war fighters from space. ORS represents a new business model that will complement and augment current systems and approaches.**

The changing nature of global threats to the United States necessitates an adaptive and agile war fighter. Space-based assets consistently provide the U.S. with the asymmetrical advantage critical to our success.

A three-tiered strategy for ORS outlined by the Department of Defense provides for (1) rapid exploitation of existing capabilities; (2) use of existing technologies and capabilities to replenish, augment and reconstitute; and (3) development of new technologies and capabilities to replenish, augment and reconstitute.

Policymakers in the executive branch and the Congress strongly support the aggressive development of ORS capabilities. However, progress in achieving a three-tiered strategy is slow and not adequately funded if this nation is going to have near-term capability to augment or replenish systems.

### ISSUES

- To date, emphasis has been placed on near-term procurement of existing capabilities. Fully employing the outlined three-tiered approach requires balanced development of all potential ORS platforms, payloads, and space access systems. This includes the rapid development of operationally responsive space systems and launchers by U.S. industry.
- The traditional requirements validation and procurement processes do not provide ORS the flexibility it needs to be successful to ensure

that capability in all three tiers is enabled. For example, current contracting processes must be simplified and streamlined in order to foster development of advanced technologies and their rapid incorporation into operational systems.

- The need to quickly acquire existing capabilities must be balanced with robust investment in innovative and inexpensive launch systems, spacecraft buses and experimental payloads. This ensures a pipeline of future systems will become available to the war fighter.
- Sufficient funding to support the procurement of an initial generation of ORS systems—launch vehicles, spacecraft buses, and payloads – will be necessary to ensure program stability and future success.

### RECOMMENDATION

**Congress should increase funding to ensure ORS becomes the model for fulfilling responsive, affordable, on-demand space support for military operations.**

**Requirements validation and contracting mechanisms must be agile in order to jump-start the availability of rapidly deployed space services and to stimulate innovation.**

**A balanced investment approach among all elements of ORS, including development, will be essential for future success.**

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