

National Security Space Acquisition Organizations

The 16 organizations that help the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Intelligence Community (IC) research, develop, and acquire space capabilities and services needed to defend national interests and preserve our way of life.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



DARPA
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
DARPA is responsible for the development of emerging and breakthrough technologies, including space-based capabilities, for military use.
Annual budget: \$4 billion
Headquarters: Arlington, VA



DAF RCO
Department of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office
DAF RCO is an office within the U.S. Air Force that focuses on rapid prototyping and fielding of mission-critical systems. Current programs include the X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle Program.
Headquarters: Washington, DC



AFRL
Air Force Research Laboratory
AFRL's Space Vehicles Directorate is the Air Force's center of excellence for space research and develops technologies that provide space-based capabilities to the nation.
Annual budget: \$307 million
Employees: 809 military, civilian, and contractor employees
Headquarters: Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH



MDA
Missile Defense Agency
MDA is a branch of the DOD responsible for developing, testing, and fielding a ballistic missile defense system to protect the U.S. and its allies from missile attacks, including through space-based systems.
Headquarters: Fort Belvoir, VA



NRL
Naval Research Laboratory
NRL is a scientific and engineering command dedicated to research that drives innovation for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps from the seafloor to space and in the information domain.
Annual budget: Navy Working Capital Fund activity – all costs are redeemed through sponsor-funded research projects
Headquarters: Washington, DC



DIU
Defense Innovation Unit
DIU facilitates the prototyping and scaling of commercial technology, including space technologies, across the DOD.
Budget: A limited budget for space technologies
Headquarters: Mountain View, CA

SPACE FORCE



SSC
Space Systems Command
SSC, within the U.S. Space Force, is responsible for developing, acquiring, equipping, fielding, and sustaining lethal and resilient space capabilities for warfighters.
Budget: \$11 billion
Employees: 10,000 professionals
Headquarters: Los Angeles Space Force Base, CA



SpaceWERX
SpaceWERX transitions agile, affordable, and accelerated capabilities to be used by the DOD by teaming innovative technology developers with Airmen and Guardian talent.
Headquarters: Los Angeles, CA



SDA
Space Development Agency
SDA is the DOD's constructive disruptor for space acquisition, delivering space-based capabilities to the joint warfighter with proliferated systems.
Budget: \$3 billion
Headquarters: Arlington, VA



CSCO
Commercial Satellite Communication Office
The U.S. Space Force's Commercial Satellite Communication Office (CSCO) serves as a liaison between the military and commercial satellite communication providers with sole authority for the procurement of commercial satellite communications for the DOD. This office coordinates the leasing or acquisition of commercial satellite bandwidth for military communications.
Headquarters: Arlington, VA



SpRCO
Space Rapid Capabilities Office
SpRCO specializes in delivery first-of systems to fill quick-turn needs for the U.S. Space Force. Currently SpRCO is focusing on protecting space assets and defending the Joint Force from a space-enabled attack.
Headquarters: Albuquerque, NM

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY



IARPA
Intelligence Advanced Research Project Activity
IARPA is an agency within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence that invests in high-risk, high-payoff research programs to address challenges in the IC.
Headquarters: Bethesda, MD



In-Q-Tel
In-Q-Tel is a not-for-profit venture capital firm that invests in cutting-edge technologies to enhance national security. Their investments are focused on companies that can deliver useful technologies to the IC within 36 months.
Annual Budget: \$60 million
Headquarters: Arlington, VA



NRO
National Reconnaissance Office
The NRO is an agency within DOD that designs, builds, and operates the nation's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance satellites to secure and expand America's advantage in space.
Headquarters: Chantilly, VA



NSA
National Security Agency
NSA advances U.S. intelligence and national security capabilities by inventing, developing, and applying advancements in science and emerging technologies to signals intelligence and cybersecurity missions.
Headquarters: Fort Meade, MD



NGA
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
The NGA is the lead federal agency for geospatial intelligence and manages a global consortium of 400+ commercial and government relationships.
Headquarters: Springfield, VA