AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION SPACE PRIORITIES — 2026

The Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) is the premier advocate for America's space industry, supply chain, and workforce. Our hundreds of member companies encompass the full range of suppliers, manufacturers, and operators supporting commercial, civil, and national security space, satellite, and launch systems. Since the beginning of the space age, AIA member companies have supported U.S. exploration and national security missions and continue to deliver space capabilities and technologies that protect the nation, support our return to the Moon, strengthen our economy, and sustain U.S. dominance in space.

CROSS-GOVERNMENT SPACE PRIORITIES

AIA and our members are committed to working with the Trump Administration and Congress to uphold and strengthen U.S. leadership in space. By advancing the following cross-government space priorities, we can reinforce America's position as the global leader in space exploration, innovation, and economic growth.

- **Grow the Space Economy.** The U.S. government should continue to invest in space capabilities that advance civil space exploration, strengthen the national security space enterprise, and ensure America's commercial space sector continues to lead the world. To sustain this momentum, Congress should provide consistent, bipartisan, and timely funding that gives U.S. programs the certainty they need to succeed and keeps the American industry ahead of global competitors.

- **Maintain a Competitive Acquisition and Regulatory Environment**. The U.S. government can best leverage commercial capabilities through multi-year planning, clear requirements, and stable budgets that provide industry with long-term certainty for private investment. Policies should transparently and fairly support U.S. commercial products and solutions for government and international partners. Regulations, including licensing and export controls, should be continuously assessed and modernized to provide regulatory stability and predictability and ensure international competitiveness. Routine engagement with industry informs modernization efforts, reforms, and programs and promotes greater or reciprocal market access for U.S. commercial companies seeking to do business overseas.

- **Reaffirm U.S. Space Policy and International Leadership**. Bold U.S. regulatory leadership sets the global standard — ensuring American industry leads worldwide. A key tenet of this success is ongoing industry participation in U.S. government-led international dialogues, forums, and standard-setting activities. Leveraging international partnerships will expand opportunities for U.S. companies to collaborate on joint space system development and operations.

- **Strengthen the Space Supply Chain and Workforce**. The U.S. government should enhance the resilience of the space supply chain and industrial base by strengthening domestic production, supporting specialty manufacturers, and securing access to critical components and materials. Strategic investments are essential to mitigate supply chain shortages and bottlenecks while accelerating the manufacturing and deployment of space systems. Investment should continue in education and workforce development to grow and sustain a skilled technical workforce that can meet long-term national needs and keep America competitive.

CROSS-GOVERNMENT SPACE PRIORITIES (CONTINUED)

AIA and our members are committed to working with the Trump Administration and Congress to uphold and strengthen U.S. leadership in space. By advancing the following cross-government space priorities, we can reinforce America's position as the global leader in space exploration, innovation, and economic growth.

- **Invest in Space Infrastructure.** The U.S. government should invest in the shared national infrastructure that powers the commercial space industry, ensuring it can grow, thrive, and remain the world's leading space sector. Ensuring resiliency of domestic transportation methods, including water transit systems and spaceports, will help support domestic manufacturing. National infrastructure must accommodate the full range of launch system needs and range-scheduling demands to support the forecasted increase in both the size and cadence of launch vehicles at spaceports nationwide.

- **Invest in Small Business Innovation**. Small business programs drive the innovation, resilience, and competitive advantage that keep the U.S. at the forefront of space technology. Government initiatives that provide early-stage funding, such as the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, enable small businesses, including new entrants to the federal marketplace and existing material suppliers, to translate research and development into novel technologies, fuel rapid iteration and responsiveness, and scale operational capabilities that define today's space industry.

- **Secure Global Leadership in Sustainable Space Operations.** The U.S. government should lead the world in space sustainability by ensuring civil and national security agencies are properly resourced and coordinated. In collaboration with U.S. commercial providers, federal agencies should fulfill responsibilities for space situational awareness, space traffic coordination, and orbital debris mitigation and remediation to promote the long-term safety, sustainability and security of the space domain. Accordingly, the government should leverage in-space servicing, assembly, and manufacturing (ISAM) capabilities as a critical enabler of sustained space operations, supporting on-orbit maintenance, resilience, life extension, and debris mitigation.

CIVIL SPACE PRIORITIES

AIA's Space Division coordinates the positions of AIA member companies on civil space programs, funding, and policy, including NASA's exploration, science, and technology programs and their supporting infrastructure. As the nation advances Artemis, Moon to Mars, and next-generation science missions, sustained investment in civil space capabilities is essential to maintain U.S. global leadership, strengthen the industrial base, and ensure continued innovation in space exploration, Earth science, and space technology development.

- **Preserve NASA's Role as a Trusted Civil Space and Science Agency.** The U.S. government should provide stable funding and program continuity for mission-driven science, from planetary and Earth science to science, technology, engineering, and math education initiatives. Sustained investment preserves NASA's world-class research and technology development, while strengthening the talent pipeline that supports the broader U.S. space industry.

- **Advance Human Space Flight Missions.** As NASA advances Artemis Missions II-V and executes long-term plans to return to the Moon — a stepping stone for crewed missions to Mars — the U.S. government must maintain an aggressive timeline for sustained lunar and cislunar presence. To successfully move from sustained lunar operations to human missions to Mars, the U.S. continue to develop key technologies in surface power systems, entry–descent–landing systems, communications and navigation architecture, surface mobility systems, long duration habitation and life support systems, in-situ resource utilization systems, lunar cargo transport and surface logistics, and autonomous systems and robotics.

- **Assert U.S. Presence and Leadership in LEO.** With International Space Station (ISS) operations only planned through 2030, the U.S. government should fund and implement policies that enable an uninterrupted transition from the ISS to future commercial low Earth orbit (LEO) destinations. This transition should be supported by a diverse fleet of U.S. launch vehicles for cargo and crew to ensure U.S. leadership in the LEO economy and a continuous U.S. human presence in LEO. Microgravity research aboard suborbital and orbital research platforms should continue to advance scientific knowledge and stimulate commercial markets.

- **Expand and Integrate Commercial Earth Observation Data.** The U.S. government should continue supporting acquisition strategies for next generation geostationary, LEO, and space weather satellite systems while encouraging NOAA and other civil agencies to maximize the use of commercially available capabilities. Increased investment in commerce space pilots, as well as long-term purchasing and acquisition initiatives, would send positive signals to the private investment community and enable sustainable and predictable use of commercial data for forecasting and science at NASA and NOAA.

NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE PRIORITIES

AIA's Space Division represents AIA member companies on national security space issues including plans, funding, and policies for including military and intelligence community use of space-based capabilities. With the joint warfighter and national decisionmakers becoming increasingly dependent on space-based capabilities, it is imperative to continue to invest in a resilient national security space enterprise and ensure the U.S. is prepared to fight and win in the space domain.

- **Accelerate Next-Generation Missile Defense.** The U.S. government should support the development and fielding of next generation missile warning and defense architectures, such as the Golden Dome for America initiative, while working closely with industry to scale existing systems and rapidly prototype, develop, and deploy new capabilities. Wherever practicable, the government should share and coordinate overarching strategies — including technology development roadmaps and funding plans — with commercial industry to ensure aligned progress and accelerate fielding of affordable, scalable, integrated, and resilient missile defense solutions.

- **Build Resilient Architectures that Leverage the Full Spectrum of Commercial Capabilities.** Architectures should be designed to contribute during conflict by being cyber-secure, protected and defended, should include redundancy across key mission areas, and enable rapid reconstitution or augmentation on operational timelines. Requirements and acquisition processes should be optimized to achieve architecture resiliency objectives at the speed of relevance and clearly articulate missions that will be government owned and operated, versus commercially owned and operated.

- **Develop Space Warfighting Training Capabilities.** The U.S. government should build new systems to prepare the joint force for conflict in the space domain. This includes training and exercise capabilities that enable on-orbit maneuverability and the development and refinement of mobility tactics, techniques, and procedures for orbital warfare and space-related electronic warfare. Requirements and licensing frameworks for next-generation satellites must account for these capabilities, ensuring we shift from reactive measures to proactive mission planning across all operational domains.

COMMERCIAL SPACE PRIORITIES

AIA's Space Division represents member companies on commercial space policy, regulatory frameworks, and market development initiatives that enable a competitive and innovative U.S. space economy. As commercial providers expand capabilities in launch, satellite manufacturing, in-space services, remote sensing, and telecommunications, modernized regulations and appropirate resourcing are essential to foster growth, enhance resilience, and ensure the U.S. remains the partner of choice in the global commercial space marketplace.

- **Strengthen U.S. Launch and Reentry Capacity.** The U.S. government should provide sustained investment for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to support increasing launch and reentry cadence, effective safety oversight, and coordinated operations across civil, commercial, and national security users. Full implementation of licensing frameworks, including Part 450, should prioritize regulatory predictability and efficiency. Commercial launch, reentry, and suborbital operations should be fully integrated into National Airspace System (NAS) modernization efforts to improve real-time coordination and minimize airspace disruptions.

- **Resource OSC for New and Existing Responsibilities.** The U.S. government should provide the Office of Space Commerce (OSC), including the Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA) office with the adequate staffing, resources, authority, and organization structure to fulfill its statutory responsibilities. This includes supporting OSC's role in promoting the long-term safety and security of the space domain, implementing an in-space "mission authorization" framework for novel activities such as ISAM, commercial LEO destinations, and its role as an industry advocate within the U.S. government and internationally. Mission authorization and remote sensing licensing should be minimally burdensome, including a presumption of approval, and reduce duplicative licensing requirements across agencies. Consistent with White House direction, OSC should be elevated out of NOAA and appoint a dedicated Director.

- **Preserve Spectrum Access and Modernize FCC Licensing.** The U.S. government must protect and advance spectrum access for space applications as demand grows from next-generation technologies, such as 5G and 6G. Government stakeholders must coordinates domestic and international efforts to preserve and expand harmonized space allocations, strengthen federal-commercial coordination, and safeguard long-term access to critical bands supporting communications, Earth observation, and space safety services. Responsible growth of current and future satellite systems depends on efforts to routinely review and modernize licensing frameworks by adopting transparent interference protection criteria, predictable coordination timelines, and clear spectrum sharing policies.