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Space Law, Regulation and Policy Update

January 26, 2024

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Good Afternoon!

This is Akin's biweekly policy newsletter on space policy and regulatory developments, providing information on major space headlines and forthcoming space-related events and hearings:

On The Hill

Articles and Quotes

House committee backs Artemis despite latest delay. (SpaceNews)

On January 17, the House Science Committee held a hearing to discuss the Artemis moon program and to allow National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officials to explain the agency's decision to delay the next two Artemis missions. In his opening remarks, Chair Frank Lucas (R-OK) stated that "I'm confident that I speak for everyone on this committee when I say we all support Artemis, but this committee's support of Artemis means asking detailed questions of NASA and providing oversight of the agency's proposals." Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) added that the committee "has long maintained its bipartisan support for Artemis and NASA's moon to Mars efforts, and I don't see that changing in any way."

Introduced Legislation

On Thursday, January 18, the Senate and House passed another Continuing Resolution to keep the government operating for an additional few weeks. With the passage of this bill, the appropriations deadlines are now moved to March 1 and March 8.

Please find our Space Legislation Tracker [here](#).

Recent and Upcoming Congressional Hearings

January 15 - February 2, 2024

Senate

House of Representatives

Returning to the Moon: Keeping Artemis on Track

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics

Wednesday, January 17 at 10:00 AM ET

In The Executive Branch



Articles and Quotes

Office of Space Commerce starts commercial pathfinder project for civil space traffic coordination system (SpaceNews)

The Office of Space Commerce recently selected three companies to participate in a pathfinder program to test how the federal government can incorporate commercial space situational awareness data into its own operations.

Guetlein calls for a change in culture in ‘responsive space’ (SpaceNews)

Gen. Michael Guetlein, vice chief of space operations of the U.S. Space Force, stated that the Space Force needs to think more unconventionally about responsive space in order to be able to react to adversarial actions in space against U.S. satellites.

DOD seeks less space classification, more collaboration with allies and commercial partners (SpaceNews)

Speaking to reports at the Pentagon on January 17, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy John Plumb stated that the Department of Defense (DOD) signed a memo in late 2023 that “removes legacy classification barriers that have inhibited our ability to collaborate across the U.S. government and also with allies on issues related to space.” He stated that doing so will help enhance collaboration with allies and the private sector.

New report calls for DOD investments in lunar space infrastructure (SpaceNews)

A new report from the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies suggests that the DOD must establish infrastructure for scientific and economic activities in cislunar space “as well as the means to secure those activities from potential threats such as territorial claims and irresponsible or hostile behavior,” particularly in response to China’s lunar ambitions.

U.S. bracing for tougher satellite radio wave negotiations (SpaceNews)

According to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Steve Lang, who led U.S. efforts at the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference in December, it will become increasingly challenging to protect U.S. interests during treaty-level talks over the allocation of radio waves for satellites given that more constellations are going up.

Internet from space: U.S. Air Force bets on commercial networks (SpaceNews)

The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) awarded \$250 million in contracts to commercial satellite operators and defense contractors in 2023 to test the ability of commercial space internet constellations to connect to military platforms.

Federal Agency Space News

Department of Defense

[Dr. John F. Plumb, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy, Holds an Off-Camera, On-the-Record Press Briefing](#) (January 17, 2024)

[Space Policy Official Details Approach to Maintaining U.S. Edge](#) (January 18, 2024)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

[NASA Selects 12 Companies for Space Station Services Contract](#) (January 12, 2024)

[NASA Administrator Names New Head of Space Technology](#) (January 16, 2024)

[NASA, Partners to Welcome Private Crew Aboard Space Station](#) (January 18, 2024)

The White House

[FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Highlights New Commitments Toward Equitable Workforce Development in Advanced Manufacturing](#) (January 23, 2024)

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)

[Space Technology Advanced Research-Fast-Tracking Innovative Software and Hardware \(STAR-FISH\) Advanced Research Announcement \(ARA\)](#)

Department of Defense

Close Date: April 23, 2025

Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

[Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences \(ROSES\) 2023](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: February 6, 2024

[NASA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research \(EPSCoR\) Rapid Response Research \(R3\) Opportunity](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: February 26, 2024

[United States Deorbit Vehicle](#)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Close Date: March 4, 2024

Notices of Proposed Rulemakings (NPRMs)

No NPRMs currently published.

Articles and Quotes

Space startup funding jumps in fourth quarter in a positive sign for 2024 - report (Reuters)

A report from venture capital firm Space Capital found that global investments in space startups rose 30% sequentially in the fourth quarter of 2023, bringing the 2023 total funding in space companies to \$17.9 billion.

International crew blasts off on Houston company's 3rd commercial flight to space station (CBS News)

SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket launched on Thursday, January 18, carrying a team of astronauts from Italy, Sweden, Spain and Turkey to the International Space Station (ISS), marking the third fully commercial flight to the ISS.

Japan becomes the fifth country to land a spacecraft on the moon (AP News)

On January 19, Japan became the fifth country to reach the moon when its Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) aircraft touched down on the lunar surface.

Japanese Mars mission launch delayed to 2026 (SpaceNews)

Japan's space agency JAXA confirmed that it is delaying the launch of the Martian Moons eXploration mission, which planned to collect samples from the Martian moon Phobos and return them to Earth, to 2026, citing a need for additional time to work on the H3 rocket that will launch the spacecraft.

ESA and EU collaborate on launch initiative (SpaceNews)

The European Space Agency and European Commission chose five launch companies to participate in a new program to provide flight opportunities for new space technologies. Called the European Flight Ticket Initiative, the effort seeks to stimulate demand for European launch services.

Belgium signs Artemis Accords (SpaceNews)

On January 23, Belgium became the 34th country to sign the Artemis Accords, which outlines best practices for responsible behavior in space exploration.

Upcoming Space Events

Global Spaceport Alliance Spaceport Summit

GSA

Monday, January 29, 2024

Space Mobility Conference

U.S. Space Force and Space Systems Command

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

50th Space Congress

U.S. SpaceCom

January 30 - February 1, 2024

Space Situational Awareness Workshop

United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation

Tuesday, February 6 at 8:00 AM ET

International Space Convention 2024

ISC

February 12 - 16, 2024

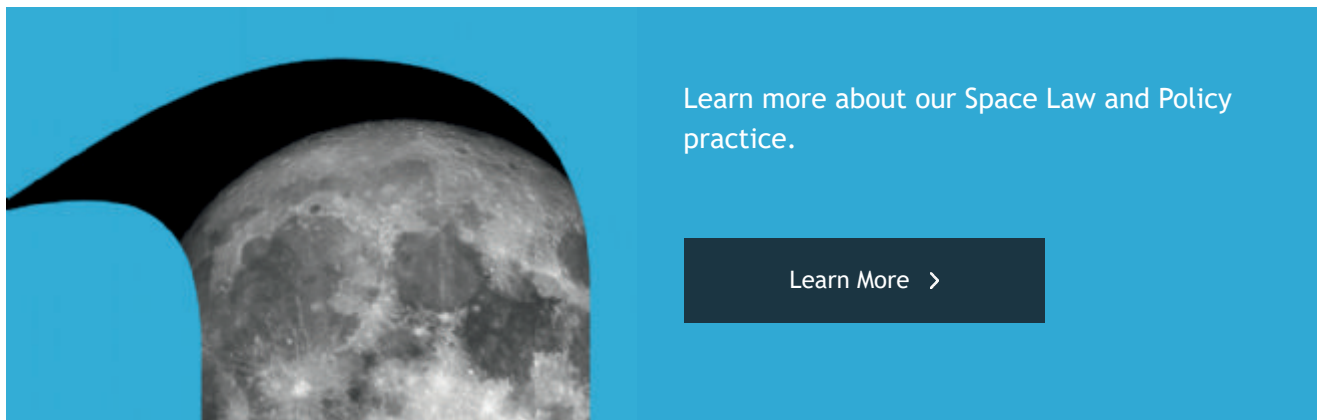
The 26th Annual FAA Commercial Space Transportation Conference

Commercial Spaceflight Federation and the Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Commercial Space Transportation

February 21 - 22, 2024

Space Beach Law Lab

February 27 - 29, 2024



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Questions?

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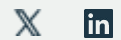


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