

# NAPA Endorses Office of Space Commerce to Head Space Traffic Management

*Managing Assets in Orbit and Beyond  
Critical to Commercial Space Operations  
and U.S. Security*

WASHINGTON, D.C., US, August 24, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The National Space Society (NSS) strongly supports the decision by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) to recommend, in line with the 2018 Space Policy Directive-3 (SPD-3), that the Department of Commerce be responsible for publicly releasing non-military Space Situational Awareness

(SSA) data as part of a new responsibility for Space Traffic Management (STM). NAPA also agreed with SPD-3 that the Office of Space Commerce (OSC), currently in NOAA, be elevated to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and urged Congress to pass authorizing legislation for the move along with an annual funding increase for OSC from its usual \$1.8 million to \$15 million.



Orbital debris is a growing area of concern for Space Traffic Management. Credit: NASA

“

NAPA's recommendation ... breaks a stalemate holding back U.S. capacity for managing space traffic in the face over 8000 tons of orbital debris and a sharp increase in satellite launches.”

*Alfred Anzaldúa, Executive  
Vice President of the National  
Space Society*

Safe, efficient, and effective space traffic management is an increasingly critical part of the new space economy and national security. With the cadence of launches picking up and ever-increasing orbital activities, nimble management of American assets in space is critical. Crew safety is of course the top consideration, but situational awareness of foreign operations and avoiding collisions with the masses of orbital debris that surround our planet is more challenging than ever. NAPA's recommendation would go a long way toward addressing these concerns.

NSS Executive Vice President Alfred Anzaldúa said, “NAPA's recommendation, which came after carefully considering

the relative capabilities of NASA and Departments of Defense, Commerce, and Transportation, breaks a stalemate holding back U.S. capacity for managing space traffic in the face over 8000

tons of orbital debris and a sharp increase in satellite launches. Granting authority and full funding to OSC per SPD-3 recommendations would fill a gaping space management hole and bring about increased collaboration with governments and commercial companies already collecting and analyzing SSA data to supplement the Defense Department's space catalog."

NSS Chair of the Executive Committee Dale Skran added, "The full empowerment of Commerce would enhance SSA and STM capability worldwide, and with that, United States space leadership. Under the status quo, no entity has STM authority, and no U.S. administration office can deal with soon-to-emerge space activities like asteroid mining and infrastructure construction in orbit. It behooves us to be prepared for the challenges such activities will bring by carrying out the recommendation of SPD-3 and NAPA."

For more information on this forward-looking recommendation, [see here](#). For more information on the future of human spaceflight, see the NSS's [Roadmap to Space Settlement](#).

The National Space Society was founded in 1987 via a merger of the National Space Institute and the L5 Society, which together carry forward the work of space settlement pioneer Gerard K. O'Neill. The NSS is the preeminent citizen's voice on space exploration and development. To learn more about the NSS and its mission to establish humanity as a spacefaring species, visit us on the web at [space.nss.org](http://space.nss.org).

Alfred Anzaldúa

National Space Society

+1 520-409-5797

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

---

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/524654308>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2020 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.