

The National Space Society Supports New National Space Transportation Policy

Organization Calls for Strong Implementation to Secure America's Leadership in Space

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The National Space Society (NSS) welcomes the release of the National Space Transportation Policy, a comprehensive directive establishing the United States' strategic framework for launch, reentry, and in space transportation activities. The policy recognizes the importance of space transportation to national interests and sets ambitious goals to expand U.S. space transportation capabilities.



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The NSS strongly supports the policy's commitment to expanding U.S. launch and reentry infrastructure, including the directive to identify and develop a new reentry site. A U.S. based reentry site is essential for ensuring safe and predictable access from space, particularly as commercial activity in space will grow demand for cargo return. The NSS supports timely implementation of this directive to ensure the U.S. builds reliable reentry capacity that commercial space companies will require. At the current time, U.S. firms are de facto forced to land in Australia for land-based reentry. Additionally, the NSS endorses the focus on opening additional spaceports and modernizing existing facilities to support launch rates of 1,000 per year and beyond.

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Grant Henriksen, Chair of the NSS Policy Committee

The Society also applauds the policy's provision to develop and implement a national space transportation industrial base strategy. A robust, resilient space transportation industrial base supported by strong workforce pipelines, stable supply chains, and competitive commercial providers is foundational to U.S. space leadership. The NSS suggests that this strategy should

prioritize commercial activity, domestic manufacturing capacity, and workforce development.

The NSS further commends the policy's clear direction that U.S. agencies should favor commercial space transportation services and refrain from government activities that "preclude, discourage, or compete" with commercial providers except where required for safety or national security. This approach aligns with NSS's long standing advocacy for a thriving commercial space sector as a driver of innovation, affordability, and economic growth.

The policy also highlights important in space transportation needs, directing agencies to evaluate requirements for space weather awareness, debris removal, and on orbit servicing. The NSS strongly supports this emphasis. As orbital traffic increases and new commercial stations, satellites, and exploration missions come online, the United States must invest in capabilities that protect the space environment and national space assets, enhance mission resilience, and enable long duration operations. In space logistics and servicing will be central pillars of the future space economy.

"The National Space Transportation Policy sets the stage for a new era of U.S. leadership in space," said Grant Henriksen, Chair of the NSS Policy Committee. "Investing in the full spectrum of space transportation will unlock a new set of space activities that will result in unprecedented science, exploration, and economic opportunity."

The NSS will continue to engage with policymakers, industry, and the public to advance the policy's goals and promote a competitive, sustainable, and forward looking U.S. space transportation ecosystem.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SPACE SOCIETY

The National Space Society is the preeminent non-partisan citizens' voice on space exploration, development, and settlement, reaching millions through its membership, numerous outreach channels, and media activities. The organization was founded in 1987 via a merger of the National Space Institute and the L5 Society. To learn more about the NSS and its mission to establish humanity as a spacefaring species, visit us on the web at nss.org.

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