

# Meeting Summary



## Federal Aviation Administration

Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee (COMSTAC) Meeting  
Marx Media Center Auditorium, Department of Transportation Headquarters  
1200 New Jersey Ave S.E., Washington, D.C., 20591  
May 30, 2019  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### List of those Present at the Meeting

#### - Committee Members:

**Mr. Bretton S. Alexander**

Vice President, Govt Sales and Strategy  
Blue Origin, LLC

**Major General James Armor, USAF (Ret)**

Director, Government Relations  
Northrop Grumman

**Dr. Greg Autry**

Asst. Professor, Clinical Entrepreneurship  
University of Southern California

**Mr. Bill Beckman**

Director, NASA Programs  
The Boeing Company

**Mr. Richard DalBello**

Vice President, Business Development &  
Government Affairs  
Virgin Orbit

**Mr. Oscar Garcia**

Chairman and CEO  
Interflight Global Corporation

**Mr. Mike N. Gold**

Vice President for Civil Space  
Maxar Technologies

**Mr. Christopher C. Hassler**

President & CEO  
Syndetics Inc.

**Mr. Livingston L. Holder, Jr.**

Partner and Managing Member  
Holder Aerospace

**Mr. David K. Karnes**

Of Counsel  
Kutak Rock, LLP  
(Former U.S. Senator from Nebraska)

**Mr. Christopher Kunstadter**

Head of Space  
AXA XL

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**Mr. Steven Lindsey**

Vice President, Space Exploration Systems  
Sierra Nevada Corporation

**Captain Michael Lopez-Alegria, USN (Ret)**

Principal  
MLA Space, LLC

**Mr. Brigham McCown**

Chairman & CEO  
Alliance for Innovation & Infrastructure

**Mr. Dale Nash**

CEO and Executive Director  
Virginia Commercial Spaceflight Authority

**Ms. Robbie Sabathier**

Vice President, Washington Operations [and Communications](#)  
United Launch Alliance

**Mr. Eric Stallmer**

President  
Commercial Spaceflight Federation

**Ms. Jennifer A. Warren (on the phone)**

Vice President, Technology Policy & Regulation  
Lockheed Martin Government Affairs

- Committee Staff:

**Ms. Dorothy Reimold**

DFO/Executive Director of COMSTAC  
Director of Strategic Operations  
Commercial Space Transportation, FAA

**Mr. Thomas Marotta**

COMSTAC Coordinator

- Agency Employees:

**Mr. Dan Elwell**

Acting FAA Administrator

**Ms. Teri Bristol**

Chief Operating Officer, FAA

**Mr. Wayne Monteith**

Associate Administrator  
Commercial Space Transportation, FAA

**Mr. Kelvin Coleman**

Deputy Associate Administrator  
Commercial Space Transportation, FAA

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### **Mr. Ravi Chaudhary**

Acting Director, Office of Spaceports  
Commercial Space Transportation, FAA

### **Mr. Brian Rushforth**

Chief of Staff  
Commercial Space Transportation, FAA

### **Mr. Randy Repcheck**

Deputy Manager, Regulations and Analysis Division  
Commercial Space Transportation, FAA

### Description of each matter discussed and conclusions reached:

- The meeting opened at approximately 9:00 am.
- In his introductory remarks, Chairman Gold noted the intense amount of activity in the commercial space industry today to include numerous regulatory activities, increasing investment in space from the private sector, and government partnership with the commercial industry to return to the Moon, among other things.
- U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, a strong COMSTAC and industry supporter, provided remarks via a pre-recorded video message. The key items in her remarks noted the safe and sustainable growth of the industry and the importance of government and industry working together
- Acting FAA Administrator provided remarks, as did FAA COO Teri Bristol. Similar to the Secretary's message, their comments underscored the focus that the U.S. government is putting on ensuring the safe growth of this innovative industry. Elwell also noted COMSTAC's growing awareness in collaborative efforts similar to the FAA's CDM program and safety data sharing.
- Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation Wayne Monteith provided remarks highlighting the importance of government and industry collaboration and notably, informed the committee that the Part 450 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) comment period would be extended to July 30, 2019.
- Acting Administrator Elwell, COO Bristol, and Associate Administrator Monteith answered questions on a number of topics to include rulemaking activities, the Space Data Integrator program deployment, and AST's priorities for the future.
- After the Q&A panel Di Reimold summarized COMSTAC planning, priorities, and work program to date and highlighted the continued efforts to improve work products and processes. She also highlighted that this session would also focus on planning for the next two year term.
- The Chairs of COMSTAC's four working groups discussed the draft Findings and Recommendations (FRs) and voted to send a number of recommendations to the FAA. The finalized FRs are posted on the COMSTAC website [here](#), under the heading of May 2019. Of note:
  - o During the Safety Working Group (SWG) discussion:
    - COMSTAC vice-chair Michael Lopez-Alegria, and the SWG Chair Oscar Garcia, gave an update on ASTM F47 consensus



- standards development and reportable safety events. He also noted AST's provisions of key areas for consideration.
- Ravi Chaudhari, FAA AST Director of Advanced Programs, publicly stated AST's alignment with ASTM F47 Reportable Safety Events' methodologies and developments.
  - The SWG chair expressed industry's interest in and desire to work towards developing a safety framework to be crafted in conjunction with the FAA AST, per the FAA Report to Congress on Human Spaceflight Safety.
  - COMSTAC chair Mike Gold and the SWG chair Oscar Garcia commended NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine for voicing concerns regarding the safety of the orbital environment due to India's anti-satellite test
  - COMSTAC member Oscar Garcia provided an update on early efforts to define potential models for voluntary safety data reporting.
  - COMSTAC member DalBello raised a concern suggesting it may be premature for industry to create voluntary safety frameworks.
- During the Competitiveness and Innovation Working Group discussion:
    - COMSTAC members Richard Dalbello and Oscar Garcia encouraged FAA to continue and expand its international outreach efforts.
    - Chairman Gold also noted the need for AST's participation in COPUOUS and other multi-lateral fora.
  - During the Legal and Regulatory Working Group discussion:
    - The full COMSTAC commended FAA for extending the NPRM comment period.
    - Members of the public Audrey Powers (of Blue Origin) and Caryn Schenewerk (of SpaceX) requested information on how FAA might engage in a dialogue with industry on the details of the proposed rulemaking before the comment period closes.
    - Mr. Randy Repcheck from AST stated that FAA intends to release draft advisory circulars before the rule is codified and then finalize the draft advisory circulars before the rule goes into effect (although this is not required by law).
    - COMSTAC member Eric Stallmer raised the possibility of extending the final rule deadline in order to allow for adequate time to fully review the rule and supporting guidance materials.
    - COMSTAC members Robbie Sabathier and Bill Beckman expressed hesitation to reopen the NPRM ARC stating that their respective organizations have analyzed the NPRM text and are prepared to make substantive comments without further input from FAA. Ms. Sabathier also expressed reservations at extending the deadline to finalize the new rule.
    - McCown voted against and Warren abstained from the recommendation to re-form the ARC to get feedback from AST on the NPRM.

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- AST agreed to report back to COMSTAC on the regulations surrounding government feedback sessions during and after the NPRM comment period.
- During the Infrastructure Working Group discussions:
  - Member of the public Chris Oswald (of ACI-NA) noted that the Airports Improvement Program (AIP) is already over-subscribed and allowing the commercial space transportation industry to access AIP would further limit the amount of money available for legacy airport uses.
  - The full COMSTAC agreed to withdraw the working group's second recommendation which dealt with adding spaceflight-related activities to what is an "aeronautical" permitted use at an FAA-regulated airport. The IWG will re-examine the recommendation and perhaps raise it at a future meeting.
- Di Reimold moderated a discussion raising a number of areas of future focus for COMSTAC work; these topics are posted on the COMSTAC website [here](#).
- Randy Repcheck summarized the Congressionally-mandated CSLCA Section 111 report on commercial human spaceflight consensus standards.
- Ravi Chaudhary summarized the FAA's activities in establishing the Office of Spaceports. COMSTAC member Dale Nash noted his strong support of this effort.
- Members of the public Chris Oswald (of ACI-NA) and Karina Drees (of Mojave Spaceport) summarized the activities of the Spaceports Categorization ARC.
- Di Reimold summarized AST's plans for the upcoming ICAO assembly and requested industry's input on a potential outreach event on the margins of the upcoming IAC in October 2019.
- Chairman Gold asked the public in the room and on the phone if they had any comments and there were none.
- The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm.