

CHARTER for NATIONAL SPACEPORT INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP

1. Introduction

Over the course of the last two decades, the United States has experienced rapid growth in space launch. The establishment of licensed spaceports was not a topic that garnered much consideration 20 years ago, but today there are 14 FAA-licensed spaceports in the U.S. A number of federal launch and reentry ranges, state-/locally-owned spaceports, and privately-owned spaceports are conducting regular space launch activities in support of a burgeoning U.S. space transportation industry. Dozens of companies have entered the space launch arena with new methods and technologies which have strengthened U.S. global leadership in space transportation.

Our nation's welfare depends on assured access to space, and the freedom to operate and explore beyond Earth. To be successful, the U.S. needs a comprehensive national spaceport strategy. Building this national strategy requires a dedicated team of experts representing multiple government agencies, state governments, industry, and academia. This national strategy will ensure that the United States maintains its role as the global leader in space transportation.

2. Purpose

This charter establishes the National Spaceport Interagency Working Group (NSIWG). This working group seeks to achieve the following goals: maintain our nation's leadership role in space transportation; develop a strategy for a resilient, interoperable network of spaceports to meet national objectives; collaborate on policies and standards for spaceport utilization; and advocate for resources and programs to enhance and promote our nation's spaceport infrastructure. The objectives of the NSIWG include:

1. Establishment of a comprehensive NSIWG Action Plan focused on defining spaceport strategy and policy, commensurate with meeting our nation's strategies for space (see references at Appendix A)
2. Develop a plan for a spaceport infrastructure grant program and alternative investment opportunities in spaceports
3. Establish and advocate for common terminology, standards, and infrastructure
4. Analyze the relationship between federal spaceports, state/local spaceports, and private spaceports, as well as best practices and lessons to be learned in spaceport operation and integration
5. Identification and pursuit of opportunities associated with technologies, investment methods, and international partnerships

6. Study the best economic approach to increase launch cost-effectiveness

Members may agree to shift priorities as listed above based on stakeholder engagement during the course of the NSIWG.

3. Membership

Chaired by the Department of Transportation's (DoT) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Spaceports (AST), the NSIWG is represented by the following organizations:

- Department of Commerce (DoC)
- Department of State (DoS)
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)
- United States Space Force (USSF)

Membership of the NSIWG will be tailored, as necessary. The intent is to organize the NSIWG as an agile and efficient team focused on collaboration across functional and organizational boundaries. The efforts of the NSIWG will be informed by participation from state and local governments, state/local/private spaceports, the launch industry, the financial industry, and academia. Members of these organizations may be invited to brief, or serve as part of, an advisory council.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

The NSIWG will arrange periodic Spaceport Industry Summits (SIS) to provide a forum for stakeholder feedback. Participants in the SIS will include representatives from state and local governments, the commercial space industry, and other relevant stakeholder groups.

5. Methodology

The NSIWG will conduct meetings regularly, and when directed by the NSIWG Chairperson. The SIS will be held as directed by the Chairperson. The NSIWG members will be responsible for regularly informing leadership within their respective organizations of NSIWG activities and progress.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The FAA AST Chairperson provides overall direction to the NSIWG based on the tenets of this charter, promotes consistency of vision, and encourages group members to meet assigned tasks. The Chairperson is responsible for establishing and conducting group meetings, ensuring minutes of all official meetings are taken, approving all group briefings and papers, and ensuring timely updates are provided to NSIWG leadership. The Chairperson will decide when additional members are needed, with the consultation and notification of existing NSIWG

members. The Chairperson is also responsible for assigning actions and suspense dates and ensuring completion of the NSIWG Action Plan.

7. Tasking

The NSIWG shall develop and execute an action plan to achieve its objectives. The NSIWG Action Plan documents the objectives and essential actions necessary to implement the group's goals. It assigns team responsibilities for defining objectives, Offices of Primary Responsibility (OPRs), and clear timelines for completion. The action plan will address the following subject areas, at a minimum:

- Engage federal, civil, and state institutions to establish a coalition of advocates for a comprehensive spaceport strategy
- Encourage collaboration and partnerships between federal launch and reentry ranges, state-/locally-owned spaceports, and privately-owned spaceports promoting safety and interoperability for the commercial space industry
- Emphasize spaceport infrastructure development (e.g., launch pad development/expansion, transportation upgrades, communications, energy improvements, commodity management, facility improvements/additions, etc.)
- Identify policy and legal changes needed to improve the operation and modernization of spaceports
- Through coordination with the Department of State, identify and seek international partnerships that may benefit our spaceport strategy
- Engage academia for potential partnerships associated with advancing a variety of technologies associated with space transportation infrastructure

8. Operating Principles

The NSIWG will operate under the principles of delivering capabilities for the spaceports that:

- Enable the safest, most efficient network of launch and reentry spaceports in the world
- Meet the spaceport and launch capacity demands of all launch and test users
- Provide fair and equitable access to our nation's spaceports
- Preserve timely access to space for national security equities
- Promote agile and robust spaceports capable of rapid recovery from natural and manmade disruption

9. Amendments

This charter may be amended by the Chairperson with no less than 30 days' written notice to the NSIWG members.

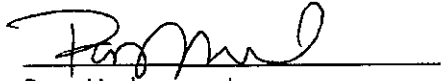
APPENDIX A

Sampling of U.S. National Strategy for Space

Multiple Federal departments and agencies have specific authorities and assigned missions in the space domain. Over the past decade, various acts of Congress or Executive Branch policy directives expressed “intent” for the whole of government to do more to enable/support commercial space. Some key policies include:

- **FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Oct 18):** “It is the sense of Congress that – (A) A robust network of space transportation infrastructure, including spaceports, is vital to the growth of the domestic space industry and America’s competitiveness and access to space. (B) Non-Federal spaceports have significantly increased the space transportation infrastructure of the United States through significant investments by State and local governments, which have encouraged greater private investment. (C) These spaceports have led to the development of a growing number of orbital and suborbital launch and reentry sites that are available to the national security, civil, and commercial space customers at minimal cost to the Federal Government. (D) The Federal Government, led by the Secretary of Transportation, should seek to promote the growth, resilience, and capabilities of this space transportation infrastructure through policies and through partnerships with State and local governments.”
- **National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2016:** “...(1) promote commercial space launches and reentries by the private sector; (2) facilitate Government, State, and private sector involvement in enhancing United States launch sites and facilities;...”
- **National Security Strategy (Dec 17):** “The United States must maintain our leadership and freedom of action in space. Priority Actions include . . . (1) develop a strategy that integrates all space sectors to support innovation and American leadership in space, (2) . . . U.S. Government partners with U.S. commercial space capabilities to improve the resiliency of our space architecture, (3) increase public-private partnerships.”
- **National Defense Strategy (Jan 18):** “(The DOD must) Integrate with U.S. Interagency. Expanding the competitive space requires combined actions with the U.S. Interagency to employ all dimensions of national power . . . Space as a Warfighting Domain will prioritize investments in resilience, reconstitution and operations to assure our space capabilities.”
- **Space Policy Directive-2 (May 18):** “. . . it is important that regulations adopted and enforced by the executive branch promote economic growth; minimize uncertainty for taxpayers, investors, and private industry; protect national security, public-safety, and foreign policy interests; and encourage American leadership in space commerce.”

Signatory:

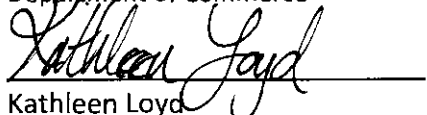


Pam Underwood
NSIWG Chairperson
Director, Office of Spaceports
Office of Commercial Space Transportation
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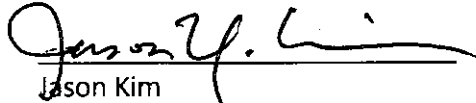
Concurring Parties:



Diane Poster
NIST Liaison
Office of Space Commerce
Department of Commerce



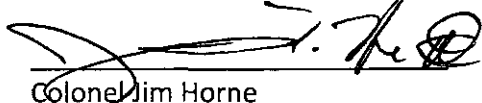
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