



Leveraging Commercial Space

USSPACECOM **J8 Memo to Industry** – FY26 (4th) Edition, October 2023

EVOLVING SPACE THREATS

U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM), working with Allies and Partners, plans, executes, and integrates military spacepower into multi-domain global operations in order to deter aggression, defend national interests, and when necessary, defeat threats.

Space capabilities enable us to protect and defend the U.S. homeland while advancing global economic and security interests. Our competitors persist in developing and testing counterspace capabilities that challenge access and freedom to operate in space.

U.S. commercial and private industry lead the way in space innovation. The commercial sector continues to rapidly advance space technologies to provide commodities and services for a myriad of purposes. This continued expansion strengthens the global economy and national security. Acceleration of product development timelines and timely integration of commercial space-based capabilities and services enables Joint/Combined force operations, which are imperative to gaining and maintaining space superiority.

“Space activities are essential to our way of life. They advance our understanding of the Earth, the universe, and humanity; enable U.S. national security; create good jobs and economic opportunity; enhance our health and well-being; and inspire us to pursue our dreams. Space capabilities provide critical data, products, and services that drive innovation in the United States and around the world. Access to and use of space is a vital national interest.”

United States Space Priorities Framework,
December 2021

SHAPING THE SPACE DOMAIN

Evolving threats and technological developments are transforming the use of the space domain. USSPACECOM continues to develop ideas on how to build a hybrid architecture of government and commercial assets with stakeholders across the space enterprise. The Command continues to explore commercial pathways to mitigate capability gaps and associated operational risks across the Joint Force. This series of memoranda provides clarity on the Command’s capability requirements. The Command also participates in other activities intended to aid in aligning commercial innovation activities to space mission priorities and help qualified companies navigate the Department of Defense (DoD) acquisition network. The Command routinely does this by soliciting industry for capabilities aligned to our priorities and mission needs; meeting with commercial partners to evaluate capabilities and their utility to the warfighter; advocating for capabilities with appropriate acquisition organizations; and leveraging existing commercial partnerships within military space operations cells.

USSPACECOM Priorities and Mission Needs include:

- **Resilient, Timely Space Operational Command and Control (C2)**
- **Integrated Space Fires and Protection**
- **Modernized, Agile Electronic Warfare (EW) Architecture**
- **Enhanced Battlespace Awareness for Space Warfare**
- **Space Systems Cyber Defense**
- **Persistent and Resilient Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)**
- **Communications and Data Transport Capacity – All Bands**
- **Global Sensor Management: Integrated Sensor Tasking and Data Retrieval**
- **Resilient Satellite C2 Architecture**
- **Operational Intelligence**

USSPACECOM: NEVER A DAY WITHOUT SPACE

THE VALUE OF COMMERCIAL SPACE

Innovative commercial technologies amplify overall military spacepower, and are a testament to the tenacity and pioneering spirit of U.S. entrepreneurs. The 2022 USSPACECOM Commercial Integration Strategy provides a framework to leverage industry expertise and integrate commercial capabilities into the Command's warfighting architecture to mitigate gaps. In the face of growing threats, USSPACECOM continues to selectively pursue mutually beneficial commercial partnerships and interdependencies.



In 2023, USSPACECOM established the Combined Joint Commercial Integration Office to synchronize and integrate commercial capabilities across the Command. USSPACECOM also signed a Commercial Space Protection Tri-Seal Strategic Framework to enable the protection of commercial remote sensing space assets vital to the nation's intelligence collection mission.

Current global events compel government and commercial stakeholders to challenge existing paradigms and reimagine possibilities to maintain space superiority. Today, commercial partners significantly contribute to Space Domain Awareness, communications, and data sharing. Future operations require a resilient space architecture, proliferated constellations, layered defense, end-to-end cyber security, and capabilities that enable offensive and defensive space operations.

WE SHOULD NOT DO THIS ALONE

Commercial capabilities and services support government, civil, and commercial space architectures in peacetime and potentially provide additional capacity to meet military requirements in crisis and conflict. As the reliance on the space domain grows, so does our responsibility to protect and defend the assets and capabilities that enable our great nation. Our combined efforts to communicate, collaborate, and synchronize our capabilities has already proven to be an invaluable approach to securing the ultimate high ground. Enduring commercial and government partnership is vital to our national security and way of life. We invite industry to work with the DoD in achieving shared interests and goals. Sustained innovation and investment will ensure we maintain the strategic advantage.

To discover what you can do to support USSPACECOM's mission, visit <https://www.spacecom.mil/Partnerships-and-Outreach/Industry-Engagement-Portal> to connect with our Industry Engagement Team.

"Commercial space has the talent pool and capabilities to contribute greatly to our national security. We, as a Nation and as a Command, need to fully harness the inherent advantages of the U.S. commercial industry via strategic guidance to direct our actions now and into the future."

General James H. Dickinson
Commander, United States Space Command

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Lockhart, Jr.".

THOMAS A. LOCKHART, JR.
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