



June 26, 2025

Laura Grimm
Acting Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Grimm,

We are writing to express our strong support for continued funding for the Office of Space Commerce (OSC) to provide Space Traffic Coordination (STC) services, a mission currently executed through the Traffic Coordination System for Space (TraCSS) program. Together, our organizations' 150+ members represent America's thriving commercial space industry whose future success depends on robust space situational awareness coordinated with the U.S. Space Force's military space surveillance network.

OSC has played a central role in building the U.S. government's ability to safely manage civil space traffic for the rapidly growing commercial space sector. There were fewer than 1,000 active commercial satellites operating in space a decade ago. Today we have over 10,000 healthy satellites orbiting Earth and are projecting growth to be over 50,000 satellites in operation by the end of the decade.

OSC's TraCSS program represents the nation's first civil space traffic coordination system. TraCSS is similar to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) air traffic control system used in aeronautics that keeps one million passengers flying safely in American airspace every day. In air and in space, the U.S. government supports complementary civil and military systems to ensure safe and secure operations that keep U.S. industry at the forefront of aerospace, ensuring our industry's competitiveness and leading position as the number one spacefaring nation in the world. To ensure safe space operations, basic space situational awareness (SSA) capabilities must be provided to the public without charges to the end user.

OSC relies on the U.S. commercial SSA community to support TraCSS through contracts let by the U.S. Department of Commerce. A commercial market for SSA data largely does not exist as European and Chinese governments provide data to their civilian and commercial satellite operators free of charge. If funding for the TraCSS program is cut, numerous American commercial SSA providers are likely to go out of business while thousands U.S. satellite operator's spacecraft fleets will be placed in peril.



These potential cuts to civil space traffic management come at a critical moment when America's satellite operator community is facing increasing competition from around the globe. China has begun launching its 14,000 satellite "Thousand Sails" megaconstellation into orbital planes close to U.S. operator systems, increasing the need for reliable public SSA services. China's rapid progress is the first step in their long-term strategy to increase China's orbital presence to counter U.S. space capabilities.

OSC is the right civil agency to coordinate this important SSA work in concert with the Space Force's network for military operations. OSC supports national security, civil safety, and commercial innovation. All sectors benefit from a robust, well-funded civil space traffic service.

We urge NOAA to support Space Traffic Management funding for OSC, as required by Space Policy Directive-3. Continued investment will keep the U.S. at the forefront of orbital safety and strategic readiness. It is a necessary step for national leadership in space.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clay Mowry".

Clay Mowry
Chief Executive Officer
AIAA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Cavossa".

David Cavossa
President
Commercial Space Federation

CC: The Honorable Howard Lutnick, Secretary, Department of Commerce
Mr. Christopher Netram, Head of Policy and Strategic Planning, Department of Commerce
The Honorable Russell Vought, Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Ted Cruz (R-TX), Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
The Honorable Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
The Honorable Brian Babin (R-TX), Chair, House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Ranking Member, House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology