

Space Conference Develops Solutions to Support and Expand US Leadership in Space

Virtual Workshop to Produce Report on Strategies for US Leadership in Space

In a first-of-a-kind, collaborative, virtual solutions workshop, NewSpace New Mexico hosted the *State of the Space Industrial Base 2020* on May 4-7, that brought together over 150 thought leaders from industry, government and academia to examine both the near-term challenges of COVID-19, and critical actions required to sustain the United States' long-term economic and military leadership in space.

Leaders from industry, Executive Office of the President, Department of Defense, NASA, Department of Commerce, Department of Energy, and academia virtually gathered to participate, guide discussion, and develop recommended solutions. Considering the great powers competition shaping the first half of the 21st century, the goal of the workshop was to identify near-, mid-, and long-term actions necessary to determine the space future most favorable to the United States.

“In a difficult time when our nation is grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, this virtual workshop attracted speakers from across the country and across all areas of space to develop recommendations critical to the nation’s security,” said Casey DeRaad, CEO of NewSpace New Mexico. “I am proud of the NewSpace New Mexico team for organizing such a productive engagement and grateful to the many space leaders who participated.”

NewSpace New Mexico partnered with leaders from key participant organizations, the U.S. Space Force, Defense Innovation Unit, and the Air Force Research Laboratory, to develop strategies that would strengthen the space innovation base. The workshop team spent four days examining the current state, threats and possibilities for U.S. industry and security leadership in areas of information services, transportation, logistics, space power, human presence, space manufacturing, resource extraction, policy and finance. The conversation was a follow-on from a 2019 meeting and subsequent *State of the Space Industrial Base* [report](#).

Key recommendations from the virtual workshop included:

- 1) the U.S. should promulgate a “north-star” top-level vision and strategy for space industrial development and establish a Presidential Task force to execute it;
- 2) the Department of Defense (DoD) should develop specific plans to protect and support commerce in space, just as it protects shipping lanes at sea;
- 3) the U.S. government should employ a full set of tools to stimulate the new industry, including space bonds and a Space Commodities Exchange and executing \$1B of existing DoD and NASA funding through the Exchange;
- 4) an international space framework for creating wealth and security with allies and partners that share our common norms and values;
- 5) a mobilization to supply the U.S. workforce necessary to fill 10,000+ science, technology, engineering and math jobs the space innovation base will require; and

6) the U.S. Space Force should work closely with entrepreneurs in the new space industry to develop innovative government-commercial partnerships for dual-use technology that simultaneously support U.S. commerce and national security in space.

NewSpace New Mexico is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity established to support and grow the space innovation base in the nation and to educate leaders and develop strategies to leverage the government's substantial intellectual & infrastructure investments. NewSpace New Mexico supports over 200 space industry stakeholders and is launching a framework for increased demonstration of industry innovations for space customers.

This is the second gathering of this group from cross-cutting government and the space entrepreneurial sector with a focus on solutions. More information on the agenda, terms of reference for the workshop, and other reference information can be found at: <https://newspacem.org/state-of-space-agenda>. A full report will be available in four weeks.