



Positioning U.S. Companies to Compete in the Economic Great Game of Space

On Thursday January 21, 2021, 157 participants attended “[Positioning U.S. Companies to Compete in the Economic Great Game of Space](#)” webinar hosted by NewSpace New Mexico. This was the second in a series of five webinars by NewSpace New Mexico to explore the findings and recommendations from “[Space Policies for the New Space Age: Competing on the Final Economic Frontier](#),” authored by Bruce Cahan and Dr. Mir Sadat. For more details on the Report, see the “Webinar series description” section at the end of this summary. The Report highlights strategies that the U.S. has developed for terrestrial purposes – such as inter-agency coordinating bodies, infrastructure finance and commodities exchanges – that can be adapted and used for space. This Webinar reviewed the Report’s numerous findings and recommendations that recall and extend such national strategies so that space assets can be designed, built, financed and serve immediate terrestrial users and prospective commercial and national security business models and government missions in Earth, cislunar, lunar and other orbits.

Mandy Vaughn, President of VOX Space – a wholly-owned subsidiary of Virgin Orbit providing the U.S. and allied nations with responsive, dedicated, and affordable launch services for small satellites bound for Low Earth Orbit, contributed the webinar’s keynote address. She emphasized the importance of appreciating breadth/depth, economic importance, and national security implications of providing a protected, stable, vibrant space economy. She also stressed the urgency of transitioning now to a space economy and experimenting with economic models to keep pace with the rate of change in technologies associated with the new space race. Casey Anglada DeRaad, NewSpace New Mexico’s founder and CEO and the webinar’s moderator, inquired as to what recommendations Ms. Vaughn would have for the government representatives in attendance. Ms. Vaughn responded that she recommends keeping the U.S. National Space Council going as a way of ensuring all interagency elements are represented in the broader discussion of space policy and initiatives; she also encouraged engaging the public with a portfolio of investment tools to maximize participation in the space economy.

To conclude the webinar, the panelists (listed below in order of speaking) each presented their unique perspectives on the challenges of building a robust, coherent public-private space economy and offered considerations and suggestions for how to achieve it. The panelists then fielded questions submitted by webinar participants. For a complete understanding of the depth and richness of the presentations and to access a copy of the briefings used by several of the panelists, please visit the “State of Space Industrial Base” tab of the NewSpace New Mexico website (<https://newspacenm.org/state-of-space-agenda>). You will also find recordings and summaries of webinars 1-2 and registration information for webinars 3-5.

Panelists (in order of speaking):

- Dr. Peter Wegner (BlackSky Global)
- Jason Bolton (U.S. Department of Commerce)
- Steve Nixon (SmallSat Alliance)
- Mike Dickey (U.S. Space Force)
- Brad Blair (Moonrise, Inc.)

Webinar series description:

This series of five webinars hosted by NewSpace New Mexico to explore the findings and recommendations from “[Space Policies for the New Space Age: Competing on the Final Economic Frontier](#),” authored by Bruce Cahan and Dr. Mir Sadat. Their Report dissects the challenges of space as viewed from 2060 - 40 years from now, and proposes a multidisciplinary framework to advance government, private sector and scientific interests in space. Their Report reviews the U.S. economic and political history that created terrestrial critical infrastructures, and recommends that space economic development leverage fully all U.S. national instruments of power (diplomacy, information, military, economics, financial, intelligence, legal, and science & technology). Noting that every country has sovereign rights to develop space assets, the Report recommends that U.S. design and implement a multi-Administration North Star vision to compete effectively, which involves increasingly more nations' national security, civil, and commercial space stakeholders.

Based on Proceedings from the State of the Space Industrial Base 2020 workshop sponsored by the U.S. Space Force, the Defense Innovation Unit, and the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory, this supplemental Report “describes how to transform existing and emerging U.S. space policies, legislation, and strategies into action plans that will ensure U.S. strategic leadership in space for the 2040-2060 timeframe.”

Links to slides:

[Peter Wegner: Space is Interstate Highway - 21 January 2021](#)

[Jason Bolton: U.S. SPACE SEGMENT SAMPLE U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security DPA, Section 705 132 survey respondents
<https://respond.census.gov/airforcesupplychain> - 21 January 2021](#)

[Brad Blair: Winning the Great Power Competition by Growing a CisLunar ISRU Economy - 21 January 21](#)

[Nixon: Hybrid Architecture Statement of Principles - 21 January 21](#)