

NASA Commercial Space Oversight Pledge

Purpose

This pledge ensures that NASA maintains full oversight, independent verification, and transparency in all commercial space partnerships. The undersigned commits to upholding these principles to protect the integrity, safety, and mission success of NASA programs while ensuring that NASA retains the capability to strategically develop and execute its long-term objectives in the national interest.

Commitments

1. Independent Verification of Commercial Claims

- Require all commercial spaceflight providers contracting with NASA to submit full, unredacted engineering data, test results, and anomaly reports for independent NASA evaluation.
- Ensure that no system developed under a NASA contract is approved for operational use without a NASA-led, independent performance and safety verification process.
- Prevent any commercial provider from restricting NASA's access to data under the claim of proprietary rights when such data is essential for mission safety or for NASA's ability to develop, refine, and maintain its long-term strategy for achieving its scientific and exploration goals.

2. NASA Engineering Oversight & Authority

- Mandate that NASA engineers have direct oversight in all major design reviews, risk assessments, and anomaly investigations for contractor-developed systems.
- Ensure that all major NASA contracts include measurable safety and performance milestones, with funding disbursements, contract extensions, and mission approvals contingent on their successful completion.
- Guarantee that any discrepancies between commercial provider claims and NASA engineers' independent assessments are documented and resolved before mission approval, funding disbursement, operational use, or public endorsement of a system.

3. Transparency & Accountability

- Require NASA to publicly disclose safety assessments and independent risk evaluations of commercial space systems, except where national security concerns prevent disclosure.
- Ensure that public claims made by commercial partners about NASA-funded systems are independently validated by NASA engineers before NASA endorses them.
- Prohibit NASA from making mission-critical decisions based on unverified data provided by commercial providers.

4. Workforce Protection & Whistleblower Support

- Implement a formal, documented process allowing NASA engineers to report safety or technical concerns without fear of retaliation.
- Establish an anonymous reporting system where NASA employees can submit concerns about commercial spaceflight safety, with all reports reviewed and responded to within 30 days.
- Require that any NASA engineer raising concerns about contractor performance receives a documented response explaining how their concerns were addressed.

5. National Security & Ethical Standards

- Require all NASA contractors to disclose any foreign partnerships, supply chain dependencies, or investments that could pose a national security risk.
- Ensure that no commercial provider with unresolved conflicts of interest or undisclosed foreign influence is awarded NASA contracts.
- Commit to testifying before Congress annually to provide a full accounting of NASA's commercial space partnerships, including safety concerns raised and how they were addressed.

6. Uncompromised Commitment to Research & Development

- Ensure that NASA actively pursues research and development (R&D) efforts that align with national interests, including those that may disrupt or obsolete existing commercial technologies.
- Refuse to let NASA's research agenda be limited or shaped by the commercial interests of any particular provider, ensuring that NASA remains at the forefront of innovation for the benefit of national security, scientific advancement, and space exploration.
- Commit to funding and supporting R&D initiatives that serve the long-term interests of the U.S., even when they challenge or replace commercially developed technologies.

7. Adequate Staffing for Effective Oversight

- Ensure that NASA is sufficiently staffed with qualified engineers, safety experts, and program managers to provide rigorous oversight of commercial space providers.
- Prevent staffing shortfalls from forcing NASA to accept unverified claims or reduce the depth of its independent assessments due to a lack of personnel.
- Ensure that NASA oversight is efficient and does not impose unnecessary bureaucratic delays that hinder commercial partners' progress, while still maintaining rigorous safety and performance standards.

Commitment Statement

By signing below, I affirm my commitment to these principles and pledge to uphold the highest standards of independent verification, transparency, and accountability in all commercial partnerships under NASA's purview.

Signature: _____

Date: _____