



## POSITION STATEMENT

# Commercial Space Flight

*Adopted by the IEEE-USA  
Board of Directors, 3 November 2021*

IEEE-USA believes that commercial space companies can play a positive role in the United States space program. NASA should embrace the commercial space industry, welcome their engagement, and act to adopt regulations and rules to allow private sector space companies to thrive.

Such a partnership will enhance our international competitiveness and lead to further advances in space technology. Private companies have already played key roles in several NASA missions, saving NASA time and money in the process. This participation also accelerates technology transfer from government researchers to the private sector where it can be used by both commercial space companies and the public. A healthy partnership between NASA and the private sector promises to revolutionize the space program of the United States, expand our economy, and improve the quality of life of all Americans. But this partnership will need enlightened public policies to thrive.

IEEE-USA recommends that NASA and federal government research agencies focused on space develop and maintain policies that:

- Strengthen and secure the domestic space industry
- Develop and implement strategies, procedures, and regulatory regimes in partnership with other international governmental space organizations and with the commercial space industry to manage, mitigate, and reduce orbital space debris.
- Improve industry and interagency collaboration with the domestic industrial space sector and international partners.
- Provide robust support for NASA Technology Transfer Program within the Office of the Chief Technologist and create institutional champions within NASA for technology transfer into the commercial space industry.
- Provide appropriate regulatory oversight of access to and use of space by the private sector.
- Support commercial missions to the International Space Station and other space systems.

- Encourage collaborations between industry, academia, and the federal government to ensure strong physical security and cybersecurity of space systems and technology.
- Assure terrestrial and space environments are protected as space launches become more commonplace.
- Establish effective regulatory policies that avoid hindering the progress of research.

*This statement was developed by the IEEE-USA Committee for Transportation and Aerospace Policy and represents the considered judgement of a group of U.S. IEEE members with expertise in the subject field. IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of nearly 150,000 engineering, computing and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. The positions taken by IEEE-USA do not necessarily reflect the views of IEEE, or its other organizational units.*