

THE WHITE HOUSE

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THE PRESIDENT'S SPACE POLICY AND COMMERCIAL SPACE  
INITIATIVE TO BEGIN THE NEXT CENTURY

FACT SHEET

The President today announced a comprehensive "Space Policy and Commercial Space Initiative to Begin the Next Century" intended to assure United States space leadership.

The President's program has three major components:

- o Establishing a long-range goal to expand human presence and activity beyond Earth orbit into the Solar System;
- o Creating opportunities for U.S. commerce in space; and
- o Continuing our national commitment to a permanently manned Space Station.

The new policy and programs are contained in a National Security Decision Directive (NSDD) signed by the President on January 5, 1988, the FY 1989 Budget the President will submit shortly to Congress, and a fifteen point Commercial Space Initiative.

I EXPANDING HUMAN PRESENCE BEYOND EARTH ORBIT

In the recent NSDD, the President committed to a goal of expanding human presence and activity in the Solar System. To lay the foundation for this goal, the President will be requesting \$100 million in his FY 1989 Budget for a major new technology development program "Project Pathfinder" that will enable a broad range of manned or unmanned missions beyond the Earth's orbit.

Project Pathfinder will be organized around four major focuses:

- Exploration technology;
- Operations technology;
- Humans-in-space technology; and
- Transfer vehicle technology.

This research effort will give the United States know-how in critical areas, such as humans in the space environment, closed loop life support, aero braking, orbital transfer and maneuvering, cryogenic storage and handling, and large scale space operations, and provide a base for wise decisions on long term goals and missions.

Additional highlights of the NSDD are outlined in Section IV of this fact sheet.

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## III. CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. COMMERCE IN SPACE

The President is announcing a fifteen point commercial space initiative to seize the opportunities for a vigorous U.S. commercial presence in Earth orbit and beyond -- in research and manufacturing. This initiative has three goals:

- o Promoting a strong U.S. commercial presence in space;
- o Assuring a highway to space; and
- o Building a solid technology and talent base.

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### Promoting a Strong U.S. Commercial Presence in Space

1. Private Sector Space Facility. The President is announcing his intent for the Federal Government to lease space as an "anchor tenant" in an orbiting space facility suitable for research and commercial manufacturing that is financed, constructed, and operated by the private sector. The Administration will solicit proposals from the U.S. private sector for such a facility. Space in this facility will be used and/or subleased by various Federal agencies with interest in microgravity research.

The Administration's intent is to award a contract during mid-summer of this year for such space and related services to be available to the Government no later than the end of FY 1993.

2. Spacehab: The Administration is committing to make best efforts to launch within the Shuttle payload bay, in the early 1990s, the commercially developed, owned, and managed Shuttle middeck module: Spacehab. Manifesting requirements will depend on customer demand.

Spacehab is a pressurized metal cylinder that fits in the Shuttle payload bay and connects to the crew compartment through the orbiter airlock. Spacehab takes up approximately one-quarter of the payload bay and increases the pressurized living and working space of an orbiter by approximately 1,000 cubic feet or 400 percent in useable research volume. The facility is intended to be ready for commercial use in mid-1991.

3. Microgravity Research Board: The President will establish, through Executive Order, a National Microgravity Research Board to assure and coordinate a broader range of opportunities for research in microgravity conditions.

NASA will chair this board, which will include senior-level representatives from the Departments of Commerce, Transportation, Energy, and Defense, NIH, and NSF; and will consult with the university and commercial sectors. The board will have the following responsibilities:

- o To stimulate research in microgravity environments and its applications to commercial uses by advising Federal agencies, including NASA, on microgravity priorities, and consulting with private industry and academia on microgravity research opportunities;
- o To develop policy recommendations to the Federal Government on matters relating to microgravity research, including types of research, government/industry/and academic cooperation, and access to space, including a potential launch voucher program;

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- 3. To coordinate the microgravity programs of Federal agencies:
  - reviewing agency plans for microgravity research and recommending priorities for the use of Federal, -owned or leased space or microgravity facilities; and
  - ensuring that agencies establish merit review processes for evaluating microgravity research proposals; and
- 4. To promote transfer of federally funded microgravity research to the commercial sector in furtherance of Executive Order 12591.

NASA will continue to be responsible for making judgments on the safety of experiments and for making manifesting decisions for manned space flight systems.

- 4. External Tanks: The Administration is making available for five years the expended external tanks of the Shuttle fleet at no cost to all feasible U.S. commercial and nonprofit endeavors, for uses such as research, storage, or manufacturing in space.

NASA will provide any necessary technical or other assistance to these endeavors on a direct cost basis. If private sector demand exceeds supply, NASA may auction the external tanks.

- 5. Privatizing Space Station: NASA, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, will revise its guidelines on commercialization of the U.S. Space Station to clarify and strengthen the Federal commitment to private sector investment in this program.
- 6. Future Privatization: NASA will seek to rely to the greatest extent feasible on private sector design, financing, construction, and operation of future Space Station requirements, including those currently under study.
- 7. Remote Sensing: The Administration is encouraging the development of commercial remote sensing systems. As part of this effort, the Department of Commerce, in consultation with other agencies, is examining potential opportunities for future Federal procurement of remote sensing data from the U.S. commercial sector.

#### Assuring a Highway to Space

- 8. Reliance on Private Launch Services: Federal agencies will procure existing and future required expendable launch services directly from the private sector to the fullest extent feasible.
- 9. Insurance Relief for Launch Providers: The Administration will take administrative steps to address the insurance concerns of the U.S. commercial launch industry, which currently uses Federal launch ranges. These steps include:
  - o Limits on Third Party Liability: Consistent with the Administration's tort policy, the Administration will propose to Congress a \$200,000 cap on noneconomic damage awards to individual third parties resulting from commercial launch accidents;

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- c Limits on Property Damage Liability: The liability of commercial launch operators for damage to Government property resulting from a commercial launch accident will be administratively limited to the level of insurance required by the Department of Transportation.

If losses to the Government exceed this level, the Government will waive its right to recover for damages. If losses are less than this level, the Government will waive its right to recover for those damages caused by Government willful misconduct or reckless disregard.

- 10. Private Launch Ranges: The Administration will consult with the private sector on the potential construction of commercial launch range facilities separate from Federal facilities and the use of such facilities by the Federal Government.
- 11. Vouchers for Research Payloads: NASA and the Department of Transportation will explore providing to research payload owners manifested on the Shuttle a one time launch voucher that can be used to purchase an alternative U.S. commercial launch service.

#### Building a Solid Technology and Talent Base

- 12. Space Technology Spin-Offs: The President is directing that the new Pathfinder program, the Civil Space Technology Initiative, and other technology programs be conducted in accordance with the following policies:
  - c Federally funded contractors, universities, and Federal laboratories will retain the rights to any patents and technical data, including copyrights, that result from these programs. The Federal Government will have the authority to use this intellectual property royalty free;
  - o Proposed technologies and patents available for licensing will be housed in a Pathfinder/CSTI library within NASA; and
  - o When contracting for commercial development of Pathfinder, CSTI and other technology work products, NASA will specify its requirements in a manner that provides contractors with maximum flexibility to pursue innovative and creative approaches.
- 13. Federal Expertise on Loan to American Schools: The President is encouraging Federal scientists, engineers, and technicians in aerospace and space related careers to take a sabbatical year to teach in any level of education in the United States.
- 14. Education Opportunities: The President is requesting in his FY 1989 Budget expanding five-fold opportunities for U.S. teachers to visit NASA field centers and related aerospace and university facilities.

In addition, NASA, NSF, and DoD will contribute materials and classroom experiments through the Department of Education to U.S. schools developing "tech shop" programs. NASA will encourage corporate participation in this program.

- 15. Protecting U.S. Critical Technologies: The Administration is requesting that Congress extend to NASA the authority it has given the Department of Defense to protect from wholesale release under the Freedom of Information Act those critical national technologies and systems that are prohibited from export.

### III. CONTINUING THE NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO THE SPACE STATION

In 1984, the President directed NASA to develop a permanently manned Space Station. The President remains committed to achieving this end and is requesting \$1 billion in his FY 1989 Budget for continued development and a three year appropriation commitment from Congress for \$6.1 billion. The Space Station, planned for development in cooperation with U.S. friends and allies, is intended to be a multi-purpose facility for the Nation's science and applications programs. It will permit such things in space as: research, observation of the solar system, assembly of vehicles or facilities, storage, servicing of satellites, and basing for future space missions and commercial and entrepreneurial endeavors in space.

To help ensure a Space Station that is cost effective, the President is proposing as part of his Commercial Space Initiative actions to encourage private sector investment in the Space Station, including directing NASA to rely to the greatest extent feasible on private sector design, financing, construction, and operation of future Space Station requirements.

### IV. ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JANUARY 5, 1988 NSDD

- o U.S. Space Leadership: Leadership is reiterated as a fundamental national objective in areas of space activity critical to achieving U.S. national security, scientific, economic and foreign policy goals.
- o Defining Federal Roles and Responsibilities: Government activities are specified in three separate and distinct sectors: civil, national security, and nongovernmental. Agency roles and responsibilities are codified and specific goals are established for the civil space sector; those for other sectors are updated.
- o Encouraging a Commercial Sector: A separate, nongovernmental or commercial space sector is recognized and encouraged by the policy that Federal Government actions shall not preclude or deter the continuing development of this sector. New guidelines are established to limit unnecessary Government competition with the private sector and ensure that Federal agencies are reliable customers for commercial space goods and services.
- o The President's launch policy prohibiting NASA from maintaining an expendable launch vehicle adjunct to the Shuttle, as well as limiting commercial and foreign payloads on the Shuttle to those that are Shuttle-unique or serve national security or foreign policy purposes, is reaffirmed. In addition, policies endorsing the purchase of commercial launch services by Federal agencies are further strengthened.
- o National Security Space Sector: An assured capability for national security missions is clearly enunciated, and the survivability and endurance of critical national security space functions is stressed.
- o Assuring Access to Space: Assured access to space is recognized as a key element of national space policy. U.S. space transportation systems that provide sufficient resiliency to allow continued operation, despite failures in any single system, are emphasized. The mix of space transportation vehicles will be defined to support mission needs in the most cost effective manner.
- o Remote Sensing: Policies for Federal "remote sensing" or observation of the Earth are established to encourage the development of U.S. commercial systems competitive with or superior to foreign-operated civil or commercial systems.