

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FOR

OSTP SPACE LAUNCH POLICY RELEASE

1. What effect will the new policy have on the Commercial use of excess ICBMs?

Answer: The policy will allow DOD to use excess ICBMs to meet their requirements in any capacity except orbital missions. Such missions will require excess ICBMs to have a government-sponsored mission requirement that cannot be met by the commercial industry at a comparable cost. Excess ICBMs will not be provided or sold for non-government commercial use.

2. Does the new policy replace the old National Security Policy Directives?

Answer: For the most part the old NSPDs have been superseded by the new policy. We chose not to totally rewrite the NSPDs, therefore some specific portions remain in effect.

3. What are the key differences between the new policy and the old National Security Policy Directives?

Answer: This policy defines the roles of the various agencies with vested interest in space launch. Under the old policy it was not clear who was in charge, and several organizations seemed to be on duplicate paths spending scarce resources to do similar work. This policy assigns responsibility for leading-edge technology work on reusable launch vehicles to NASA and operations and development of expendable launch vehicles to the Department of Defense.

4. Are there any enforcement provisions in the policy or is it a directive with no teeth?

Answer: The policy requires DOD, DOT, DOC, and NASA to provide a plan on how they intend to comply. OSTP intends to influence the budget process to ensure agencies are properly planning their work. The policy has the full support of the agencies involved. Therefore we expect them to comply because they want to, not because they have to, but it has the force of an administration directive.

5. Is this policy consistent with the recent Space Launch Modernization Study recently completed by General Moorman?

Answer: The OSTP and General Moorman's study team work together closely in their respective tasks. This policy is completely consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Moorman study.

6 The policy seems to have been a long time in coming. We heard it was going to be released last year - it's now August. What was the stumbling block that kept it from completion?

Answer: Congress directed the DOD to complete a study on space launch and provide a roadmap for the future. General Moorman was tasked within the DOD to lead the study. We delayed the policy to allow him to complete his task and to insure that any relevant issues were included. We have talked with General Moorman and believe this policy is totally consistent with the study he recently completed. A lot of time was also spent in coordination to insure the involved agencies were allowed to provide their comments to the policy and to insure the policy would provide those agencies with guidance they believed to be appropriate.

7 Does this policy direct DOD to develop a new expendable launch vehicle?

Answer: The policy assigns primary responsibility for expendable launch vehicles to the DOD. It does not direct a new launch vehicle procurement. It is supportive of the evolutionary development being considered by DOD, but it permits DOD to make the decision on what is right in the expendable launch area.

8 What effect will this policy have on the Titan IV program?

Answer: The policy does not specifically address the Titan IV program. The DOD has a continuing requirement for heavy lift capability to high orbits. DOD will need to make the decision on whether to continue Titan IV for this requirement or to replace the Titan IV capability with some other system.

9 What effect will this policy have on the launch vehicle industrial base?

Answer: The launch vehicle industry today has excess capacity. This policy does not attempt to force the industry to downsize, but rather will allow the industry to self-correct. If DoD were to initiate a program to develop an evolutionary family of launch vehicles, this would promote such a correction. Hopefully, this policy will help to provide industry with the government's position on launch so they can use that as a basis on which to make decisions.

10 What effect will the policy have on the relationship between NASA and DOD?

Answer: The policy assigns the lead role for reusable launch vehicles to NASA and the lead role for expendable launch vehicles to DOD. Formerly, both organizations were moving forward with somewhat duplicate programs. Based on this policy, we expect NASA and the DOD to cooperate in both reusable and expendable space launch, and to not develop programs that would compete for resources in the other's assigned area.

11 Will this policy have any effect on the Air Force range modernization and improvement program?

Answer: No, the Air Force has for some time been working to upgrade and modernize the space launch ranges. This policy does not affect that work.

12 What plans does the department have for the FY94 funds appropriated to ARPA for reusable technology now that the lead role for reusable work has been assigned to NASA?

Answer: The DOD has been consulting with NASA on how to best spend the money appropriated in FY94 for reusable technology. ARPA has developed a plan that is consistent with the objectives of NASA, and intends to go forward with contract action to spend the remainder of the funding. DoD leadership is considering that plan.

13. How does the policy affect the DOD approach to reusable technology activities?

Answer: The policy directs NASA to lead reusable launch vehicle work. The DOD is still permitted to maintain a role in reusable work, especially if it involves development of capabilities unique to DOD requirements. DOD would naturally coordinate its work with the lead organization, NASA, who would insure there was no duplication of effort. The same is true of the relationship in expendable launch vehicles, with the roles reversed.

14 Does this policy affect DOD use of the Space Shuttle?

Answer: In this area, the policy is consistent with the way DOD and NASA have been operating. DOD is able to use the Shuttle for national security payloads as required, but NASA, of course, remains as the operator of the Shuttle.

15. Do you think this policy will affect the FY95 budget in-work by Congress?

Answer: It is rather late in the FY95 budget cycle to have a substantial impact, but we believe that early sharing of our thoughts with Congressional staff. The General Moorman report, which is consistent with this policy, has already had some impact on the budget process. Language from some of the committee reports indicates they are sensitive to the need to assign lead roles and avoid duplication of effort between NASA and DOD.

16 Will this policy permit DOD to purchase foreign launch systems?

Answer: The policy permits the use of foreign technology and foreign launch vehicle components when it is deemed to be appropriate by the buying agency. It does require US government payloads to fly on US launch vehicles. There are, of course, exceptions where it is in the interest of scientific exchange or for cooperative programs like space station.

17. Does this policy recognize the unique requirements of the various space launch sectors?

Answer Yes, all interested parties were participants in the preparation of this policy. It has been fully coordinated and is sensitive to the interests of everyone in the space launch business. It is, by its nature, a compromise in some areas where interests conflict.

Questions and Answers on Space Transportation Directive

8/2/94, 2:30

Q: *What is NASA's total budget for space transportation?*

A: The President's FY 1995 budget request for NASA space transportation activities is \$4.1 billion (excluding personnel, tracking, and other mission support functions). \$3,680 million is for the Space Shuttle and related activities, \$341 million is for expendable launch vehicles, and \$103 million is for advanced launch technology. Final budgets will be determined by Congressional action and future NASA operating plans.

Q: *What is NASA's budget for advanced launch technology? How much of this is focused on future reusable launch vehicles?*

A: Of the \$103 million requested for advanced launch technology, \$50 million is for the Next Generation Launch Vehicle Technology Program. This funding level may later be revised, depending on Congressional action and future NASA operating plans.

Q: *What is DOD's total budget for space transportation activities?*

1.5B - FY95

A: Get from DOD/Tony Wu.

Q: *How much of this DOD funding is for improvements to current launch vehicles?*

A: Get from DOD/Tony Wu.

60M - FY95

Q: *What are the five-year budget plans for NASA and DOD space transportation activities?*

A: Future space transportation budgets for both NASA and DOD are being reassessed in view of the President's new directive and evolving agency requirements. Long-term budgets will be prepared next fall as part of the Administration's FY 1996 budget process.

Q: *How will this Presidential directive affect the NASA and DOD FY 1995 budget plans, which were submitted to Congress long before the Administration's review was completed?*

A: Funding plans for NASA and DOD space transportation will be reassessed later this year after agency implementation plans are reviewed. This will allow consideration of final Congressional budget action and evolving agency requirements and priorities.

Q: *NASA's Access to Space Study estimated that it would cost \$18 billion and take 14 years to make a fleet of new reusable launch vehicles operational. Is this really affordable, or does the Administration believe that a new launch vehicle would actually cost much less?*

A: NASA's Access to Space estimates assumed continued use of the "current way of doing business", but this approach is simply not feasible in today's budget environment. The later study by the Moorman panel concluded that the development cost could be significantly reduced by using more efficient procurement techniques. Some measures now being examined include streamlined project offices, performance-based contracting, and greater private sector control over system development and operations.

Q: *What will be the role of the private sector in funding and managing the new space transportation activities discussed in the President's directive?*

A: The private sector's long-term role has not yet been determined, but the directive acknowledges that it may be significant. The Departments of Transportation and Commerce will address this issue in their implementation plans this fall. It should be noted that NASA has Reusable Launch Technology agreements with companies that are also contributing their own funding to the projects.

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Page 3