

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
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VICE PRESIDENT MAKES MAJOR SPACE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Vice President Quayle today made a series of major space policy recommendations in his final space report to President Bush. The Vice President highlighted the Administration's many accomplishments, but noted that continued effort is required to ensure the strength of American space programs and industries in the face of post-Cold War economic and political realities. He made a series of specific recommendations intended to aid the incoming administration and the new Congress:

- The government must organize its space activities in ways that encourage greater cooperation and synergism and less duplication, particularly among NASA and the space programs of the Department of Defense.
- The Administration's policy decision to develop a new, more efficient space launch capability should be implemented. Our current launch systems are aging and too expensive to operate, adding to the cost of both military and civil space programs and resulting in the loss of American dominance in the international launch market.

The "Spacelifter" concept recommended by the Vice President's Space Policy Advisory Board represents the kind of capability the nation will need for unmanned space launch requirements for the 21st century.

A serious assessment of human space flight options is also needed. The goal should be to begin transitioning to a more cost-effective and efficient human spaceflight system by about 2005 and retire the Space Shuttle program soon thereafter.

- Further cost containment measures should be initiated in the Space Station program. For the program to survive future budget and political challenges, there must be confidence that it will be completed within its current budget projection and on the schedule currently planned.

Management responsibility should be consolidated within a single NASA center, and a single contractor should be assigned overall responsibility for program integration.

- The size and complexity of future space programs, particularly civil science programs, should be constrained. Large, complex programs like the Hubble Space Telescope

often take a decade or more to complete and cost billions of dollars, magnifying the consequences of technical failures. New science missions should be designed in ways that allow their construction and launch to occur in no more than about five years.

- A series of actions to facilitate the growth of space-related industries should be implemented or accelerated, particularly in the areas of regulation and trade.
- Efforts to forge partnerships with other nations should be expanded, but not at the expense of our national economic and security interests. Moreover, transactions involving our space assets should not be used primarily as a means for rewarding or stimulating desirable behavior in other areas.
- The nation should continue to pursue a long-range goal of human space exploration. While Congressional concerns about affordability have delayed funding for the Space Exploration Initiative, the goals of a permanent settlement on the Moon and the human exploration of Mars are both achievable and affordable if managed skillfully.
- Current efforts to relax security regulations should be continued. The strict security protections that have been applied in the past to military and intelligence space activities have resulted in high costs, lost foreign sales, and restrictions on public and private use of data. Moreover, sharing capabilities, within prudent limits, with allies and friendly states could deter the proliferation of space technologies.
- The government should make additional investments to develop and maintain our ability to deny the use of space to our adversaries during a crisis or in wartime.

The Vice President's recommendations were based, in part, on the findings of a recent report of the Vice President's Space Policy Advisory Board, "A Post Cold War Assessment of U.S. Space Policy," as well as on assessments and recommendations by members of the National Space Council, which he chairs, and other individuals.

For further information about the report, contact Elizabeth Prestridge at 202-395-6175.

To obtain additional copies of the report, contact Debbie Bradley or Karen Waddy at 703-685-3078.

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