The NewSpace Nexus 6th Annual Space Industrial Base Conference Highlights Unprecedented Urgency for Greater Commercial Space Integration

A sweeping transformation of the U.S. defense space enterprise underscores a shift to enable the industrial base at the speed of relevance -- and ensure peace through strength.

Albuquerque, New Mexico. Space leaders across industry, government, and academia gathered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the sixth annual State of the Space Industrial Base Conference (SSIB) hosted by NewSpace Nexus on April 29-May 1. Over 300 participants assessed the strength of the space industrial base and delivered recommendations to the government to accelerate efforts in ensuring peace through strength. The discussions showcased how federal investment in commercial space integration is yielding exponential returns—and how the government is working to remove barriers to drive greater innovation with unprecedented urgency.

NewSpace Nexus hosted the event with key partners providing content, Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), the United States Space Force (USSF) and Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). NewSpace Nexus will release a follow-on report that will present the key challenges and actionable recommendations identified for the Administration, White House, senior policymakers across the executive departments, Congress, and the broader commercial space ecosystem. New this year, the CONFERS General Assembly & Workshop was held as a pre-conference member event before SSIB and CONFERS led the ISAM/SML working group.

Leaders across the U.S. space enterprise presented strategic briefings at the conference, including U.S. Congressman Rob Wittman; Lt. Gen. Shawn Bratton, USSF; Maj. Gen. Stephen Purdy, Jr., Office of Assistant Sec. AF; Thomas Lockhart, U.S. Space Command; Robert A. Perez Alemany, DIU; Dr. Kelly Hammett, Space Rapid Capabilities Office; Dr. Andrew 'Andy' Williams, AFRL; Col. Jeremy Raley, AFRL; Paula Trimble, Space Development Agency; Lt. Col. Aaron Stevenson, COMSO USSF; Dr. Stacie Williams, USSF; Dan Schatzman, SpaceFund; Kevin O'Connell, Former Office of Space Commerce; Doug Loverro, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense; Diane Howard, Former National Space Council; Namrata Goswami, Professor and Author; U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich; and State of New Mexico Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales.

"This conference has always been something special," said Robert Perez-Alemany of DIU. "It's not just a meeting of minds, it's a place where momentum is built, where partnerships take shape, and where the future of space isn't just imagined, it's made real. That's in no small part thanks to the incredible work that NewSpace Nexus has done."

"This year's State of the Space Industrial Base (SSIB) Conference made it even clearer: accelerating the pace of commercial innovation is critical to strengthening the industrial base and U.S sustained leadership in space," added Casey Anglada DeRaad, CEO of NewSpace Nexus. "NewSpace was founded for this purpose -- and our collaborative efforts to Unite & Ignite Space are working. Our conference emphasized the collective progress in speeding up innovation and the considerable returns the government has seen from investing in commercial integration."

"Speed matters. Speed saves lives. Speed wins wars. And right now, speed is what our adversaries are betting we can't do," stated Perez-Alemany.

"It's about taking a bold and innovative approach like we are doing at the Space Force and relying on industry" added Dr. Stacie Williams. "We can leverage our industry partners to win."

Key findings from the plenary sessions and working groups included:

- **Space Power is Key to Peace through Strength.** U.S. leaders have embraced offensive and defensive space control as core military missions. The discussion confirmed the cultural adoption of "space superiority" as a prerequisite for dominance in every domain.
- **Golden Dome Emerges as Strategic Unifier.** The envisioned space-based missile defense network—integrating AI, sensing, and commercial assets—is anchoring strategic planning across DoD and industry.
- **Industrial Base Speed and Scale Are Imperative.** Leaders warn that exquisite systems are insufficient. Deterrence demands speed, scale, maneuverability, and sustainment. Speed and scale are now enforced by acquisition reform priorities, both in DoD and the Congress.
- **Supply Chain Is a Strategic Hot Spot.** The conference calls for a national priority to track threats, identify chokepoints, and enable resilient production in a domain that needs protection.
- **Commercial Integration Is Delivering Results.** With many new space systems awarded to non-traditional vendors - programs from DIU, SDA, SpaceWERX, Office of Strategic Capital and NewSpace Nexus are narrowing the valley of death and driving dual-use innovation.

NewSpace Nexus hosts the State of the Space Industrial Base Conference & Workshops in partnership with industry space organizations and key government participants to capture the voice and needs of industry and accelerate space innovation. Keynotes and plenary sessions kicked off the event. Conference participants then broke out into working groups on Space Policy, Regulation, & Finance; ISAM/SML; Workforce, Education & STEM; Novel Tech; and Space Sensing. Debriefs and key learnings from the event capped off the event. NewSpace then led volunteer groups into eleven middle schools on May 2nd to celebrate National Space Day as part of its efforts to inspire the future workforce through its Pathways to the Stars program.

Visit newspacenexus.org for more information on this year's conference and to read the State of the Space Industrial Base report. Next year's conference is set for May 26-29.

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About NewSpace Nexus
NewSpace Nexus is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity that is accelerating the pace of space innovation by uniting and igniting the space industry. NewSpace Nexus was established to bring together space stakeholders, promote a universal voice for space leadership, and grow the commercial space innovation base for the benefit of the nation with greater speed and scale. With extensive experience in commercial, civil and military space, product marketing, and sales acceleration, NewSpace Nexus uses its knowledge and vast network of stakeholder relationships to bring vetted opportunities and hard-to-find resources to the companies that need them. For more information, visit www.newspacenm.org.

About the State of the Space Industrial Base Series
The annual State of the Space Industrial Base Conference & Workshops are hosted by NewSpace Nexus in partnership with industry space organizations and with key government organizations, Defense Innovation Unit, United States Space Force, and Air Force Research Laboratory. Critical actions and recommendations outlined from the working group and co-innovation sessions are summarized in an annual report authored by NewSpace Nexus, offering a framework for operationalizing solutions and accelerating progress year-over-year.

About the State of the Space Industrial Base Report
The report represents the collective voice of hundreds of industry experts who gather at the annual State of the Space Industrial Base Conference & Workshop series to provide inputs and recommendations to grow a healthy space industrial base and national security innovation base faster. The recommendations aim to provide counsel to the Administration, National Space Council, senior policymakers across the executive departments, Congress, the venture capital and investor community, and the broader commercial space ecosystem.

About the Space Industrial Leadership Council (SILC)
To ensure the voice of industry is fully represented, NewSpace Nexus convenes its Space Industrial Leadership Council, to fully represent commercial, industrial, and civil space interests. Members of the council include representation from NewSpace Nexus, Aerospace Industry Association, The Atlantic Council, National Defense Industrial Association, Satellite Industry Association, SmallSat Alliance, Space Florida, Space Frontier Foundation and Space Northwest.