

STATE OF THE SPACE INDUSTRIAL BASE

SSIB INTERNATIONAL PARTNER WORKSHOP

In partnership with Meridian International Center

WORKSHOP AGENDA

November 19-20, 2026

Meridian House | 1630 Crescent Place NW, Washington, DC 20009

Part of the 2026 SSIB Workshop Series

PRESENTED BY

NEW SPACE NEXUS

MERIDIAN

THE STATE OF THE SPACE INDUSTRIAL BASE

The annual State of the Space Industrial Base (SSIB) conference and workshop, hosted by NewSpace Nexus, convenes thought leaders from government and industry to evaluate progress in the space industry and develop recommendations for maintaining national advantage and driving economic growth.

Key findings and recommendations culminate in the SSIB Annual Report, representing the collective voice of hundreds of industry experts who gather at the SSIB Conference and Workshops. The report provides 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.



Gen Bratton delivers a keynote at SSIB 2025. [Credit: NewSpace Nexus]

THE LATEST SSIB REPORT

The SSIB 2025 report, Sustaining Space Leadership: Economic Strength and National Security at Speed and Scale, was released in April 2026. Past SSIB reports are available at newspacenexus.org/reports.

THE 2026 SSIB WORKSHOP SERIES

Ahead of the next SSIB conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, NewSpace Nexus is convening partner workshops that bring government and industry together around the issues shaping the space industrial base. Insights from each workshop contribute to the 2026 SSIB Annual Report.

WORKSHOP 1

INTERNATIONAL PARTNER WORKSHOP

November 19-20, 2026

Meridian House, Washington, DC, in partnership with Meridian International Center

WORKSHOP 2

COMMERCIAL LAUNCH PARTNER WORKSHOP

December 2-3, 2026

Wallops Island, Virginia, in partnership with Virginia Spaceport Authority

ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

The International Partner Workshop brings together ambassadors, embassy representatives, and leaders from government and industry focused on global and international partnerships in space. Over two days, participants will examine how the United States and its allies can do business together across borders, align sovereign capabilities with coalition architectures, build trust and information sharing, co-develop and buy together at commercial speed, and strengthen an allied industrial base.

> ***Most sessions are held under the Chatham House Rule and are interactive to encourage open engagement and new ideas.***



Peter Garretson, A.J. Metcalf, Andrew Williams, and Bucky Butow on a panel at SSIB 2025. [Credit: NewSpace Nexus]

DAY 1

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19 1300-1700 ET

1300

Welcome and Introductions

Frank Justice, Vice President, Open Diplomacy Programs; Director, Space Diplomacy Initiative, Meridian International Center
Arial DeHerrera, NewSpace Nexus
Col Aaron Stevenson, U.S. Space Force (COMSO) (virtual)

1315

KEYNOTE

Greg Autry, Senior Advisor for Space, U.S. Department of State

State Department's Space Catalyst Partnership (SCP) Program

1345

SESSION

Doing Business Together Across Borders

Moderator: Arial DeHerrera, NewSpace Nexus

Discussion Topics

- Buying and selling commercial solutions with partners: what's working and what isn't
- Partner access through Direct Commercial Sales vs. Foreign Military Sales
- What "U.S. Only" means in solicitations, and the cost of U.S. subsidiaries for allied companies
- ITAR/EAR, CMMC, and other barriers to entry

1445 ***Networking Break***

1500-1700 **Diplomatic Engagement Sessions**

1500

SESSION

Sovereign Capability and Coalition Architectures: Turning Policy into Partnership

Moderator: Dr. Diane Howard, Principal, sur l'espace PLLC, and Former Director, Commercial Space Policy, National Space Council

Discussion Topics

- Balancing independent national space capabilities with integrated coalition architectures
- Model agreements: AUKUS, the U.S.-Australia Technology Safeguards Agreement, and the Artemis Accords
- Partner nations building their own ecosystems, such as Chile's National Space Program and proposed spaceport
- Framing partnership in ways that resonate with Indo-Pacific and other regional partners

1600

DIPLOMATIC ROUNDTABLE

Trust, Information Sharing, and Governance

Moderator: Dr. Diane Howard

Panelist: Karina Perez, Director, Space & Spectrum Policy Center, Computer & Communications Industry Association

Discussion Topics

- Classification and foreign disclosure barriers, and lessons from the Joint Commercial Mission's use of unclassified data
- Where else lower-classification approaches could open the door to allied and commercial partners
- Space governance, lunar resources, and keeping communication open with adversaries
- The people behind partnership: embassy country teams, Foreign Area Officers, and exchange and liaison officers

1700-1900 **Evening Reception**

DAY 2

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20 0900-1200 ET

0900 — **Welcome and Day 1 Recap**

Meridian International Center

0910 — KEYNOTE

Tahara Dawkins, Senior Director of Policy, Astroscale U.S.

0940 — SESSION

Partnering at Commercial Speed: Co-Development and Buying Together

Moderator: Casey Anglada DeRaad, NewSpace Nexus

Discussion Topics

- Closing the gap between multi-year government agreements and commercial innovation cycles
- Agile mechanisms: TAP Labs, Partnership Intermediary Agreements, CRADAs, the University Partnership Program, and SSTIs
- Is there a mechanism for joint or co-funded acquisition?
- A clear government demand signal to unlock U.S. and allied investment
- Regional entry points for international companies, such as New Mexico

1035 — ***Break***

1045 — SESSION

Building the Allied Industrial Base: Interoperability, Supply Chains, and Workforce

Moderator: Jordan DeRaad, NewSpace Nexus

Panelist: Tahara Dawkins, Senior Director of Policy, Astroscale U.S.

Discussion Topics

- Common standards, data-sharing frameworks, and building systems for releasability
- Resilient multinational supply chains: trusted suppliers, allied manufacturing, and launch infrastructure
- Workforce shortages and solutions: STEM pipelines, university partnerships, and researcher and industry exchanges
- Paths to true combined space operations

1145 — WRAP UP

Inflection Points, Action Items, and Measuring Progress

Focus Areas

- Consolidation of short-, mid-, and long-term action items
- Metrics for partnership health: allied participation, time to reach agreements, jointly developed capabilities, and supply chain diversity

1200 — **Adjourn**

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

NewSpace Nexus is proud to collaborate with Meridian International Center and our key government partners, the Department of War Innovation Unit (DIU), Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), and U.S. Space Force Space Systems Command's Commercial Space Office (COMSO), to facilitate meaningful discussions and advance initiatives that strengthen the space industrial base.

WORKSHOP PARTNER

Meridian International Center

KEY GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Department of War Innovation Unit (DIU)

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL)

U.S. Space Force (COMSO)

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ABOUT NEWSPACE NEXUS

NewSpace Nexus is a non-profit accelerating the pace of space innovation by uniting and igniting the industry. NewSpace Nexus brings together space stakeholders, promotes a universal voice for space leadership, and grows the commercial space innovation base for the benefit of the nation, using its knowledge and vast network of stakeholder relationships to connect vetted opportunities and hard-to-find resources to the companies that need them.

Learn more at **newspacenexus.org**