



## **PROBLEM**

Private Sector Investment in Outer Space Activities

## **BACKGROUND**

In the past few years, there has been an explosion in U.S. private sector interest and investment in outer space activities. From a Department of Defense (DoD) perspective, there are two related implications. The first raises the question of how the DoD can best leverage the excitement and investment of the private sector in outer space in order to support defense space activities. The second asks, if there is huge growth of the U.S. private sector in space, what are the implications for the DoD in terms of protecting that activity or preserving open access to and use of space? The second question has a precedent in maritime operations to preserve open lanes for shipping at sea. These two questions are intertwined, and sequentially, the OSD Space Policy Office will likely need to write policy for leveraging and protecting U.S. investment in space.

The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (OSD) for Space Policy is responsible for writing the defense space strategy and policy. In early 2019, the OSD Space Policy Office will release broader Defense Space Strategy, however, the report will not delve into the detailed implications of commercial space activities from a policy, authorities, resources, or posture standpoint. For this reason, the office requires assistance in the crafting of the finer details of the policy and guidance related to the two above topic areas.

## **CHALLENGE**

The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy needs to identify the implications of U.S. private sector investment in outer space in order to understand how to leverage and protect the interest of the U.S. private sector in outer space.

## **OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS**

- Addressing how to leverage private sector investment could include recommendations for missions where commercial capabilities or services could be most effectively leveraged by the DoD and recommended changes to U.S. and/or DoD policies, authorities (legislative or otherwise), and processes needed to take advantage of those opportunities.
- Addressing how to protect U.S. private sector investment could include policy recommendations on the appropriate role of the DoD in this regard, potential new DoD missions, and implications for posture, capabilities, and resources to perform these missions.

## **LOCATION**

Washington, D.C.

## **PROBLEM OWNER**

Audrey Schaffer, Director for Space Strategy and Plans, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (audrey.m.schaffer.civ@mail.mil)



**SENIOR LEADER**

Stephen Kitay, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

([stephen.l.kitay.civ@mail.mil](mailto:stephen.l.kitay.civ@mail.mil))