

Developing the sustainable foundations for returning Americans to the Moon and enabling a new era of commercial spaceflight in low Earth orbit (LEO) are the linchpins of our national human spaceflight policy.

As we work to return Americans to the Moon, we plan to do so in partnership with other nations. We will therefore coordinate our lunar exploration strategy with our ISS partners while maintaining and expanding our partnerships in LEO. As we work to create a new set of commercial human spaceflight capabilities, we will enable U.S. commercial enterprises to develop and operate under principles of long-term sustainability for space activity and recognize that their success cannot depend on Federal funding and programs alone.

The National Space Council recognized the need for such a national strategy for human spaceflight in LEO and economic growth in space, and in February of 2018, called on NASA, the Department of State, and the Department of Commerce to work together to develop one. This strategy follows the direction established by the Administration through Space Policy Directives 1, 2, and 3, which created an innovative new framework for American leadership by reinvigorating America's human exploration of the Moon and Mars; streamlining regulations on the commercial use of space; and establishing the first national policy for space traffic management.

Our strategy for the future of human spaceflight in LEO and for economic growth in space will operate within the context of these directives. Through interagency dialogue, and in coordination with the Executive Office of the President, we have further defined our overarching goals for human spaceflight in LEO as follows:

1. To achieve a continuous U.S. presence in LEO – both with government astronauts and with private citizens – in order to support the utilization of space by U.S. citizens, companies, academia, and international partners and to maintain a permanent American foothold on the nearest part of the space frontier.
2. To create a regulatory environment in LEO that enables American commercial activities to thrive.
3. To conduct human spaceflight research in LEO that will advance the technology and systems required for long-duration spaceflight systems, including for interplanetary travel and permanent space habitation.
4. To expand and extend commercial opportunity through international partnerships and engagement.

We are happy to have submitted today our strategy for achieving these goals to the National Space Council. Their achievement will be vital to our continued economic growth as a Nation, to our standing in the eyes of the world, and to realizing a vibrant and ever-expanding future for humanity in space.