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Fall 2021

## The Aerospace Advocate

As a benefit of your [AIAA membership](#), we provide quarterly updates on public policy issues of relevance to the aerospace community.

### AIAA PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

#### Join Us for the ASCEND East Coast Satellite Event on 15 November

As you may know, 2021 ASCEND is a six-day hybrid event that features a visionary agenda, inspiring speakers, and a community spirit that welcomes everyone who loves space. ASCEND is inclusive, hands-on, and outcomes-oriented. AIAA believes it must bring together the whole space ecosystem to strengthen relationships that will make the future of space happen.

On Monday, 15 November, AIAA is hosting the [ASCEND East Coast Satellite Event](#) at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. The limited-space, one-day, face-to-face event will feature discussions with national leaders on-site, networking during and after, and a live feed from the ASCEND Las Vegas stage.

[Join](#) key stakeholders from academia, government, and industry to discuss today's hot topics in the space community.

### **AIAA Plans for Hybrid Congressional Visits Day**

The 2022 event is slated to take place both in person and virtually the week of 14 March. The in-person component is subject to the health situation and access to congressional offices. Registration will open in early January, and travel stipends will be available to students and young professional members who participate in Washington, DC. Additional information will be posted on the [CVD website](#) in the coming weeks.

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## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

### **Government Operating Under a Continuing Resolution**

Congress did not pass any of the 12 Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations bills prior to the 30 September deadline. Consequently, the federal government is operating under a continue resolution (CR), which expires on 3 December. All aerospace-related programs remain funded at the previous year's funding levels. Meanwhile, the Senate majority recently [released](#) their remaining FY22 appropriations bills setting the stage for negotiations with the Senate minority and House on an end-of-the-year spending bill.

### **Revised Reconciliation Package Includes Science and Tech Provisions**

Among a variety of provisions, the \$1.75 trillion reconciliation package [includes](#) \$750 million for upgrades to NASA infrastructure, \$140 million for Earth science research and applications, and \$220 million for NASA's aeronautics program. The bill also includes \$975 million for NSF research awards, scholarships, fellowships, and upgrades to research facilities, as well as a new tax credit for sustainable aviation fuel.

### **Defense Policy Bill Passes House**

The [\\$768 billion package](#) includes, among many things, the creation of a National Guard for the U.S. Space Force, authorizes nearly \$1 billion in additional cybersecurity investments, establishes a special visa pathway for technical experts in fields relevant to national defense, and calls on the National Space Council to coordinate U.S. government efforts to prioritize objectives for developing norms of behavior for space. The full Senate must consider and pass their [version](#) of the bill prior to both chambers reconciling their differences.

### **Bipartisan, Bicameral Bills Would Solidify and Expand American Space Exploration**

The [Advancing Human Spaceflight Act](#), which provides for the development of next-

generation spacesuits at Houston's Johnson Space Center, reaffirms the United States' commitment to the International Space Station and its successors, and establishes a "stepping stone" approach to exploring the moon and Mars. A [companion bill](#) was introduced earlier this year in the Senate.

### **Senate Advances Nominee for NIST Director**

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation voted in favor of [Laurie Locascio](#) to be the next director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Locascio is currently vice president for research at the University of Maryland's Baltimore and College Park campuses. She spent most of her career at NIST, first as a bioengineering researcher and then in a series of senior leadership roles.

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## **EXECUTIVE UPDATES**

### **Biden Administration Sets Sustainable Fuel Plan**

In an [effort](#) to slash aviation emissions 20% by 2030, the White House has called on federal agencies—including the DOD, DOE, DOT, EPA, and NASA—to work together to increase renewable aviation fuel. President Biden has also called for a Sustainable Aviation Fuel tax credit under his Build Back Better Agenda to ramp up production of sustainable aviation fuels. The credit would apply to fuels providing at least a 50% reduction in lifecycle emissions.

### **Space Council Revises UAG Charter and Membership**

The White House will update the Users' Advisory Group (UAG) charter to make sure it reflects the priorities of the vice president and this administration, as well as ensure it offers the council the views of the commercial space sector.

### **NASA Splits Oversight of Human Exploration Programs**

The [Space Operations Mission Directorate](#) will oversee crewed launches, the International Space Station, the commercialization of low Earth orbit, and eventually astronaut missions on and around the moon. Meanwhile, the Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate will oversee the development of new spacecraft for conveying astronauts to the moon and eventually Mars.

### **NOAA Stands Up Space Weather Advisory Group**

The [group](#) will advise federal agencies on space weather research, monitoring, and mitigation activities. Its membership is evenly split between academia, commercial providers, and end users.

### White House Releases R&D Priorities

The [memo](#) emphasizes pandemic preparedness and climate change mitigation and it follows the Trump Administration's R&D memos in focusing on critical and emerging technology areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum information science, advanced communications, and biotechnology. Other priorities include protecting national security interests against threats such as cyberattacks, building trust in science, and promoting diversity and equity in STEM education.

### Pentagon Working Group Addresses Supply Chain Resilience

The Department of Defense has [stood up](#) the Supply Chain Resiliency Working Group to address ongoing challenges with its supply chain visibility and resiliency, including ways to mitigate risk. The task force will build on existing DoD efforts to shore up supply chain risks, and its work is expected to take two years to complete.

### Changes Coming to Air Force Space Acquisitions

The Department of the Air Force recently put in place a realignment of initial space policy development that in the past has been directly under the purview of the Air Force secretary. This action puts initial space policy development in the military chain of command rather than in the hands of civilians appointed by Congress.



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