

## COMMERCIAL SPACEFLIGHT OPERATIONS ACT OF 2024

The **Commercial Spaceflight Operations Act of 2024** would create the **Commercial Space Transportation Administration** as an independent mode of transportation within the Department of Transportation. Such an action would recognize the importance of commercial spaceflight in satisfying national security requirements, maintaining technological leadership, enabling international competitiveness, and providing inspiration for students and the development of a robust aerospace workforce.

A key provision of the Act requires the Secretary of Transportation to competitively award a cooperative agreement to a university, nonprofit, or not-for-profit organization to form a consortium that would operate a **Commercial Spaceflight Research Alliance**. The consortium would be collaborative in nature and would involve all interested parties from government, industry, academia, and the international community. Potential focus areas for research include a **Human Research Program for Civilians in Spaceflight and Space Habitation**, along with studies related to vehicle systems and technologies, mission operations, spaceports, and policy and market research.

Other provisions are intended to support the development of a **National Spaceport Network** that would consist of current and prospective commercial spaceports, government launch & landing sites, and privately-owned-and-operated launch & landing sites that would work together to support civil, commercial, and national security requirements for access to space.

### Additional provisions of the Act include:

- Establishment of an **Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Commercial Spaceflight**.
- Adoption of a **National Spaceport Policy** to clarify federal objectives and priorities.
- Funding for the **Space Transportation Infrastructure Matching Grants Program** to support projects that will increase the safety, capacity, efficiency, and resiliency of space transportation operations.
- Modification of the statutory definition for **Space Support Vehicles** to enable commercial spaceflight companies to conduct spaceflight training programs using high-performance or former military aircraft, just like NASA does.
- Establishment of a goal for the United States to lead the world in **Point-to-Point Transportation through Space**.

A draft of proposed legislative language to implement the Act is available on the Global Spaceport Alliance web site.

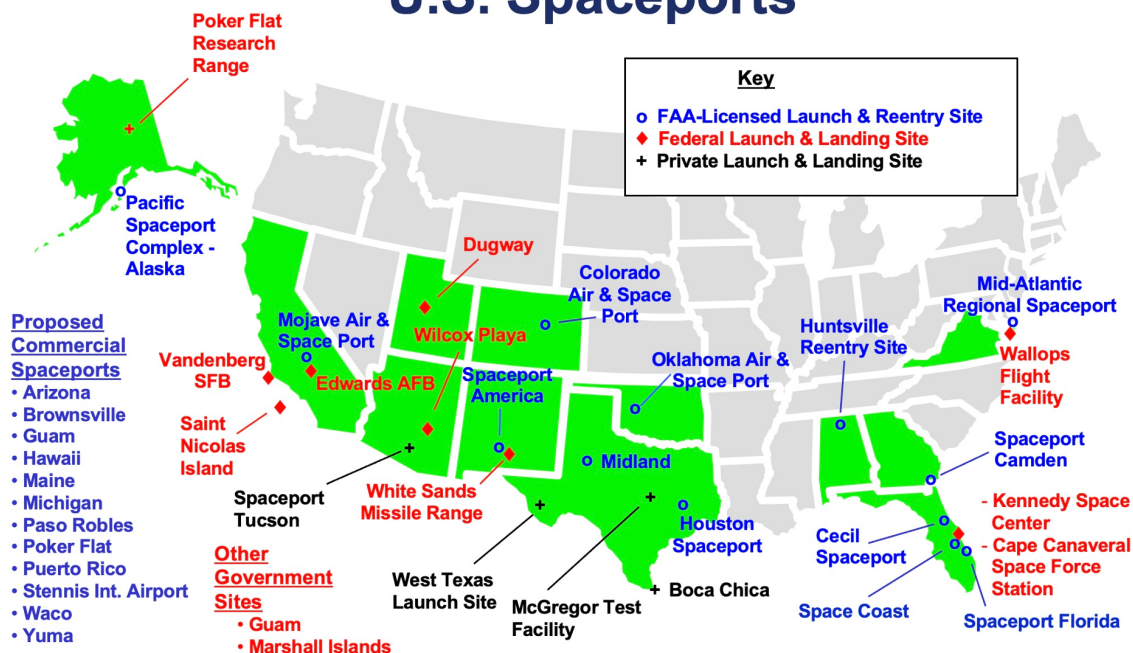


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Background and additional details of the proposal are described in the [National Spaceport Network Development Plan](#).



# U.S. Spaceports



## What can you do at a spaceport?

Spaceports are not just locations from which rocket launches are conducted. They can also serve as focal points and technology hubs to enable the growth of the global space economy. Potential activities include aerospace manufacturing, testing, scientific research, technology development, education and training, workforce development, space tourism, and point-to-point transportation.

## How large is the Global Space Economy?

According to the Space Foundation, it amounts to more than \$546 Billion today. A number of major financial firms, including UBS, Morgan Stanley, and Bank of America Merrill Lynch, all project it to exceed \$1 Trillion by 2040. Much of that growth could take place at or near spaceports.



Spaceport America



West Texas Launch Site

## ABOUT THE GLOBAL SPACEPORT ALLIANCE

The Global Spaceport Alliance (GSA) was established in 2015 with the goal of creating a global network of spaceports that will allow increased access to space, and that can serve as focal points and technology hubs in growing the space economy.