

## 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Transportation

### 2. Fiscal Year

2024

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Commercial Space Transportation  
Advisory Committee

### 3b. GSA

### Committee No.

682

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

06/23/2023 06/23/2025

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

### 7. Expected Term Date

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

### 8c. Actual Term Date

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

agency decision memorandum

### 13. Effective Date

02/24/1984

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program  
Advisory Board

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for  
this Fiscal Year

### 17a.

Open

1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

### Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Start

End

COMSTAC will discuss their recommendations on FAA's establishment of a commercial space transportation lessons learned database for licensing and mishap lessons learned, which can be shared broadly with industry and the public. Additionally, they will discuss future industry priorities and challenges that the government should be aware of and address recommendations on how the Department can facilitate overcoming those challenges. FAA's Office of Airports gave a presentation on its proposed policy to add commercial space transportation as defined aeronautical activities.

**Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1**

	<b>Current Next</b>	
	<b>FY</b>	<b>FY</b>
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

COMSTAC makes recommendations to DOT and

the FAA Administrator regarding proposed federal policy, business and economic issues and other specific concerns affecting the U.S. commercial space transportation industry.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The committee members represent a wide range of industry viewpoints. Members include representatives from commercial space launch service providers (companies that conduct FAA-licensed launches); commercial spaceport operators (companies/organizations that manage and operate non-Federal launch sites); space launch vehicle and satellite manufacturers; satellite users; academics; and economists working on commercial space issues. Membership also includes a special government employee expert who is a retired FAA Assistant Administrator. Members have a range of space policy expertise and volunteer/are associated with a number of space advocacy organizations. To ensure that the recommendations of the committee have taken into account the needs of diverse groups served by the FAA, membership includes, to the extent practicable, individuals and/or organizations representing minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The committee typically holds an in-person, public meeting twice per year. Since COVID19 shutdowns began in March 2020, the meetings have been "virtual" using an online webinar service. In FY22, the November meeting was virtual and the May meeting was a hybrid virtual/face-to-face event. On occasion, special meetings are held. In March 2022, for example,

Air Traffic Organization hosted a COMSTAC orientation meeting at the Air Traffic Control System Command Center on ATO procedures to ensure aviation safety during launches/re-entries and also explained how the Space Data Integrator functions. Working groups meet as needed, usually via teleconference, to work on reports and recommendations back to the full committee. In FY23, two new member orientation sessions and three virtual committee meetings were held. Maintenance of the committee is a vital component to the success of the U.S. commercial space transportation industry. Committee recommendations and input also represent important assistance to the FAA in carrying out the Administration's national space policy.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

Members constitute the primary source of information and industry expertise because the members are the key decision makers, launch technology experts, and users of space launch technology throughout the US and the world. The committee is the most appropriate, efficient, and cost-effective way for FAA to obtain information and effective advice in such a dynamic business and policy environment.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

N/A

**21. Remarks**

COMSTAC has provided information, advice, and recommendations to the Department of Transportation and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration on U. S. commercial space transportation industry issues

since 1984. The economic, technical, and institutional expertise provided by COMSTAC members has been invaluable to our work in developing effective regulations that ensure safety during commercial launch operations and policies that support international competitiveness for the industry. The Committee utilizes working groups, which provide information, reports, and recommendations to the full Committee for adoption. The Committee may also establish ad hoc working groups or special task groups to address specific short-term issues and/or current issues.

## Designated Federal Officer

Brian Verna DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Drees, Karina	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Commercial Spaceflight Federation	Representative Member
Dunn, Mat	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Space X	Representative Member
Elbon, John	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	United Launch Alliance	Representative Member
Frego, Tony	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Spaceflight Inc	Representative Member
French, Mike	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Aerospace Industries Association	Representative Member
Jah, Moriba	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	University of Texas	Representative Member
Jones, Therese	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Satellite Industry Association	Representative Member
Ketchum, Dale	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Space Florida	Representative Member
Kronmiller, Kate	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Jacobs	Representative Member
Mercer, Ted	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority	Representative Member
Mitchell, Megan	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Blue Origin	Representative Member
Moses, Mike	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Virgin Galactic	Representative Member
Newman, Dava	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Representative Member

Nield, George	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Commercial Space Technologies/ Global Spaceport Alliance	Representative Member
Parker, Michelle	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Boeing	Representative Member
Preisser, Melanie	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	York Space Systems	Representative Member
Schenewerk, Caryn	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Georgetown University	Representative Member
Simpson, Amanda	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Airbus	Representative Member
Sitaraman, Ganesh	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Vanderbilt University	Representative Member
Skylus, Jay	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Aevum	Representative Member
Sonty, Sita	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Boston Consulting Group	Representative Member
Stricklan, Melanie	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Slingshot Aerospace	Representative Member
Zoller, Julie	10/07/2022	10/07/2024	Amazon	Representative Member
Zulkosky, Ann	03/03/2020	10/07/2024	Lockheed Martin	Representative Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 24**

### **Narrative Description**

The committee has consistently supported the mission of the Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration in maximizing safety during commercial launch and reentry operations as well as operations of commercial (i.e. non-Federal) launch sites. The Committee made 36 recommendations for this year

### **What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if  
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Increased customer satisfaction                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Outcome Comments**

NA

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Unable to Determine        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Over \$10,000,000          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Cost Savings Other         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Cost Savings Comments**

NA

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

502

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

Since 1984, COMSTAC has typically made 12 recommendations per year to the FAA. In FY22, however, COMSTAC provided 30 recommendations and in FY23, COMSTAC issued 36 recommendations.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

69%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

Exact implementation records going back to 1984 are not available. However, In FY22

COMSTAC promulgated 30 recommendations. 8 recommendations were fully implemented, 20 were partially implemented, 1 was not applicable, and 1 was rejected. In FY 23, COMSTAC offered 36 recommendations, and 25 of those were fully implemented, 8 were partially implemented, 2 were rejected, and 1 was not applicable.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

22%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

In FY 2023 FAA is in the process of implementing 8 additional recommendations.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

Feedback is provided primarily through white papers, observations, findings and recommendations from the Committee to FAA. FAA then responds to the Committee on how it will implement the recommendations of the Committee.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

NA

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA



**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

N/A