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COMMERCIAL REMOTE SENSING POLICY: POTENTIAL CHANGES NEEDED IN US POLICY

Abstract

This talk will provide an overview of the effects of current US policy in remote sensing on the commercial space sector and will offer suggestions for areas where changes could better support the space industrial community. Currently US policy and regulations address satellite operations and observations among other issues, but these policies have not been updated recently. Many US government agencies rely on satellites to conduct research and development activities from mapping to use of imagery for many social and economic purposes. There is a need for the federal government to address gaps in remote sensing policies and improve inter agency coordination. Such improvements will benefit both the commercial and private sector as both look to partner with the federal government. This talk will address both areas where the federal government should consider new policies and will provide an overview of what changes are necessary from a regulations standpoint. Operational requirements for collecting, processing and distributing data will be included in this discussion. Also of note, US export control policy will need to be considered as new remote sensing devices and systems enter the market. Lastly, addressing the increasing technical sophistication of remote sensing systems will require streamlining remote sensing policies between agencies. These are all areas where updates in federal policies are needed. Public private partnerships as well as international cooperation would benefit from these federal policy changes. As the US government looks to partner with the international community on environmental monitoring and natural disaster mitigation, we will need updated remote sensing policies that streamline the work of each of the federal agencies that rely on that technology. As the federal government looks to maximize the use of commercial remote sensing and foster both domestic and foreign partnerships to reach climate and other policy objectives, it will need to revise and update remote sensing policy and regulations. This talk will outline these changes needed to strengthen the federal ties with the commercial and international sector.