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**August 18, 2022**

## **FCC Opens Proceeding on Innovation and Transformation in the Space Economy**

On August 5, 2022, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), the U.S. satellite and space regulator, opened a proceeding on innovation and transformation in the space economy. A copy of the FCC Notice of Inquiry ("NOI"), FCC NOI 22-66, can be found [Here](#). The NOI, a less formal, earlier stage proceeding than situations in which the FCC has a specific new regulation or rule in mind and issues a "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking," or "NPRM," addresses the technological, economic and policy aspects of in-space servicing, assembly and manufacture, or "ISAM." ISAM includes in-space refueling, repair and other servicing of manned and unmanned satellites and space vehicles; assembly of components into larger on-orbit vehicles like space stations; space debris removal; and materials manufacture and transformation in space, which of course includes near-vacuum and zero-gravity conditions difficult to achieve on Earth. ISAM has implications for spacecraft life extension; orbital debris mitigation and remediation; human and robotic access to space and extraterrestrial bodies; climate change mitigation; and national security implications, as increasing numbers of countries gain access to space.

The NOI is intended to dovetail with the National Science and Technology Council/White House Office of Science and Technology Policy's April 2022 ISAM strategy report, available [Here](#). The "New Space" era has exploded coincident with the new century; in the last approximately 20 years, private commercial satellites and space operators and service providers, satellite prime and subsystem manufacturers and launch and ground service providers have started a new space revolution. The NOI seeks public comment as to how the FCC may update, clarify and modify its satellite and space rules, spectrum and frequency allocations and licensing procedures to

support and facilitate that revolution and ISAM missions particularly, while reducing barriers to entry.

Public comments to the NOI are requested by 45 days following publication in the Federal Register. If you are interested in commenting on the FCC's NOI, or for information on our professional services, please visit our website at the button link below and contact us at [info@kurtinlaw.com](mailto:info@kurtinlaw.com) or +1.212.554.3373.

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