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**November 3, 2022**

## **FCC Chair Announces New Space Bureau**

Today, November 3, 2022, Jessica Rosenworcel, Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), the U.S. satellite and space regulator, announced an organizational restructuring of the FCC to create a new Space Bureau to better administer the burgeoning space business. Rosenworcel noted that the FCC has received applications for 64,000 new satellites in the last two years, an unprecedented level of regulatory activity. FCC space sector responsibilities include the licensing of new satellites ("Space Stations" in regulatory speak), teleports ("Ground Stations") and allocation of radio frequency spectrum to satellites, including the avoidance of interference with terrestrial radio frequencies. Satellite and space industry regulatory proceedings have long been the preserve of the FCC's International Bureau. Under the proposed administrative reorganization the first in years, the International Bureau would be split into a new Space Bureau and an Office of International Affairs. A copy of Chair Rosenworcel's remarks, delivered to the Satellite Industry Association, can be found [Here](#).

We reported on August 5 the FCC's opening of 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.

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