

## **The Critical Needs of a Resilient Space Industrial Base**

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### **ABSTRACT**

In July 2022, the Government Accountability Office released GAO-22-104154, *Defense Industrial Base: DOD Should Take Actions to Strengthen Its Risk Mitigation Approach*. The study prescribed several actions for the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to take to strengthen the defense industrial base at large to better meet current and future needs. To that effort, in 2023, the DoD National Defense Industrial Strategy (NDIS) identified four critical areas of focus: resilient supply chains, workforce readiness, flexible acquisition, and economic deterrence. In line with these initiatives, our commercial and international partners emphasized the need for building a stronger supply chain in the space domain, specifically during the U.S. Space Force's 2023 Space System Command International Reverse Industry Day Summit. All these initiatives showcase the growing importance of addressing the critical needs of a resilient space industrial base.

Features of the space industrial base include a high rate of innovation, a high influx of capital, and unique manufacturing considerations such as non-recurring engineering, analysis of the reliability, and risk to launch into orbit. Dimensions of the space industrial space that require improvement include scalability, capacity, sustainability, and resiliency. The production demands for the war in Ukraine are a prime example of scalability and capacity needs. The Space Industrial Base is uniquely poised to strengthen the supply chain and bring back industrial manufacturing by tapping directly into innovation from start-ups, accelerators, incubators, and science and technology collaboration with universities across the United States. As we stand amid the Great Power Competition (GPC), there is a need to incentivize with a dual approach from industry and venture capital to speed up technology innovation. The DAF must change to effectively deter in an era of Great Power Competition (GPC) and win in a conflict should deterrence fail. To confront the 2022 National Defense Strategy pacing challenge, the People's Republic of China (PRC) or an aggressive Russia, we are launching a major effort to reoptimize the DAF. To achieve a more competitive posture, the DAF is implementing major changes centered on how we develop people, generate readiness, project power and develop integrated capabilities. We must change now to be always ready; today, tomorrow, and every day.