

Australian Space Agency Submission - Technology Safeguards Agreement and the Potential for Future Investment and Opportunities in Australia.

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Introduction.

Upon invitation of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) with the Parliament of Australia, Mr Cameron Ikin, Director Capricorn Space Agency (CAPSA) pty ltd makes the following submission. Recently, the government of the United States of America (US/USA) and the Commonwealth of Australia, have entered into a Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA) regarding the cooperation and subsequent sharing of US space technologies and the opportunities which currently exist in Australia. This TSA agreement has enormous benefit both for the USA, Australia and for the future of the space industry and for humanity itself.

Within this submission, I intend to draw upon my extensive experience within the space technologies' industry globally, my understandings of the current states of space and various space-related industries globally, throughout Australia and finally my views on the future benefits for the USA, Australia and for the space industry. I view that this TSA is a real first stepping stone to an amazing opportunity for each nation to generate a whole new unique element to a booming industry and to the next frontier for us as an adventure seeking species.

Current state of the TSA and how it can affect the Australian Space Tech Industry now.

The TSA's deployment as an agreement is in the very early stages of development. This is a major benefit to all parties. This benefit in my view surrounds the capability of all parties to place the correct foundations in place, both ideologically, via successful industrial development and through effective understandings of the future of the new space age. The new space age is

the next frontier of the story of human exploration. If the TSA works well, this could provide all parties with an excellent capability to develop whole new elements of this booming new industry (Damp, 2024).

The Australian Space Technology Industry is in the very early stages. Small companies are doing some work in this new field. Government also has deployed some crucial and successful resources over the past few decades. The TSA will assist Australia in generating a successful circular economy around the new space age and ensure that much of the research and development (R&D) capital is spent in our nation. Upon deployment and use of the TSA, Australian businesses will now have access to the US satellite market, other markets and their technologies. Having this access, businesses, government-based groups and other associated organisations, will be able to then contribute to the overall development of this marketplace and to ensure the continual evolution of our industry (Damp, 2024).

How the TSA can develop the Australian Space Industry and what are the likely outcomes of this alliance.

As previously mentioned, the TSA has enormous potential to assist the development of the Australian Space Industry. The engagement, deployment and monitoring of the TSA in Australia, will encourage the successful facilitation of launches and subsequent returns to Australian space stations. Australia is permanently blessed with an excellent geographic location in the space industry and this element, properly promoted, will encourage significant growth in our space industry. The TSA will allow a whole range of groups within the US space technology field, to successfully launch and return space technologies, from Australia and use our nation as a new space hub. If Australia works within the confines of the agreement of the TSA, then they

may also allow approved international groups to use our nation to develop, launch and return space products from our unique location. With effective approval and support, various bodies, such as private companies, government bodies and universities, could successfully conduct space technology launches and returns from Australia's unique location (Australian Space Agency, 2024, Damp, 2024).

Whilst there is excellent potential within this Australian space technology industry, we must also look to securing the safety of this industry from our nation's and our allies' competitors. Various space technologies have real potential to be used for purposes that can pose a threat to Australia and her allies around the world. The TSA does indeed provide good safeguards to ensuring the security of shared space technologies and to allow a safe marketplace to launch and return enhanced space technologies into the future. Effective practical and other security protocols can be deployed as required and will ensure safe and competitive technologies for Australia and her allies in this new space age (Australian Space Agency, 2024).

The TSA is well constructed and covers all required key elements of a quality space industry. These elements include US launch vehicles, spacecraft and satellites. US supportive launch systems equipment and data (computer systems) associated with launch activities. Whilst this is fundamental, all space technology programs must include all crucial elements and other nations which are also permitted, with restrictions, to work within the developing Australian space industry. Further, if these new approved groups are seeking any access to US space technologies and associated elements, they must enter into an agreement with our relevant authority. This is a good allowance and ensures successful security as required (Australian Space Agency, 2024).

Further, since US space technologies are quite advanced, it would be a good choice for the Australian space authority to restrict any other groups' work within this alliance. It is my view that this TSA is an excellent gift to Australia and that any outcomes from this engagement, will provide key tactical advantages in a range of ways in the future. This advantage will have to be well earned however. The Australian government and space authorities will be required to regulate and restrict all space launches and returns in future. This will include all activities that are governed under this TSA. The TSA will hence be governed legally under relevant federal legislation and will hence require the Australian government to work to secure and protect provided US space technologies. Hence, a new band of federal funding for various associated Australian government groups could be considered and will hopefully ensure successful use of the TSA to ensure Australia's place in the new space age. There could be serious federal capital returns for this funding investment in future (Australian Space Agency, 2024).

Finally, the security of Australia's engagement, deployment and utilisation of the TSA, should be mentioned again. The security of our engagement of the TSA is fundamental, as any breach could lead to serious tactical consequences, loss of valuable technologies, loss of opportunities and a weakening of the US and Australian space technologies alliance. The Australian authorities could generate a whole new division within government and ensure that these security responsibilities flow through these groups, to ensure that the US and Australian space technologies alliance is strong and producing good outcomes for the future. This of course will require funding. However, if planned correctly over time, there will very likely be excellent capital returns for government and other groups associated with the deployment of this TSA (Australian Space Agency, 2024).

How the TSA can develop other future industries.

As previously mentioned, the deployment of this TSA can assist other industries to be created in the new space age. This is in recognition of the requirement of the return of capital investment in many developing industries. Australia, as a nation, has one of the most advanced and high-quality mining and resource development industries in the world. A potential to combine this, with our development of the space industry, thanks to the TSA, could see Australia be the world leader in space mining and resource development. As many scholars have stated, space mining and resource development is required to ensure quality life for humans on other planetary bodies. Or, space colonisation for want of a better term. If Australia, in combination with the US and other authorised partners, uses its extensive natural resource industry to develop space mining and resource development, we could have much of the control of this new and necessary booming industry. There would be significant returns in future for both space colonisation and mineral processing here on Earth for significant capital returns. Hopefully Australia and her partners will consider this as an option and look to secure the potentially excellent capital returns in future (Australian Space Agency, 2024).

Conclusion.

In conclusion, we can now see how the TSA can assist Australia and the space industry, the restrictions and capital potential that this can provide for our nation in this new space age that we find ourselves. I have been working in the space industry for a few years now and, the last impression that I will provide for the reader, is that this new industry is the next human frontier, with massive capital investment and potential returns for those willing to manage risk

successfully. We can ensure great success here thanks to the TSA and hopefully this will provide further investment and success in ensuring that the great potential that Australia has in the new space age is not wasted.

It was an honour to submit this to you today and thank you for the opportunity!

Regards,

Cameron Ikin, Director, CAPSA pty ltd.

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