

Barton Deakin Brief: Australian-US Space Co-operation Agreement

23 September 2019

Outline

The Australian Space Agency and NASA have launched a new partnership for future space co-operation. The Prime Minister, Hon Scott Morrison MP, announced from Washington that the Australian Government will invest \$150 million over the next five years for Australia to join the United States' 'Moon to Mars' mission.

Partnership with NASA

In a media release from Washington on the 21st September 2019, the Prime Minister stated that a partnership with the US space sector will present opportunities for Australian businesses to support NASA's Project Artemis and the Lunar Gateway. The funding and partnership will also allow them to become more competitive in the international space market.

The Australian Space Agency and NASA will work together to establish how Australia can best support these missions and how NASA can assist Australian businesses to access global space supply chains.

Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, the Hon Karen Andrews MP has supported the Prime Minister's statements on Australia's investment into space exploration and development, emphasising how this partnership and funding will support local businesses and technological advancement in Australia.

The Australian Space Agency's relationship with NASA and the \$150 million announced to fund the venture is part of the government's existing plan to triple the size of Australia's space sector. Tripling the sector is expected to create a \$12 billion industry and 20,000 new jobs by 2030.

Building Australia's Space Sector

On the 12th of December 2018, when the Prime Minister announced that the [Australian Space Agency would be located in Adelaide, South Australia](#), he also stated his intention to triple Australia's space economy to \$12 billion by 2030. The Australian Space Agency now has a mandate to transform and grow the space sector and ensure the creation of 20,000 new jobs by 2030.

The work of the Australian Space Agency is underpinned by engagement with industry, specifically through the signing of Strategic Statements of Intent with key industry organisations. Most recently, the Australian Space Agency signed a Statement of Strategic Intent (SSI) and Cooperation on the 30th of August 2019 with Australian SME FrontierSI, who deliver spatial information services in partnership



with government, industry and the university sector. The SSI has been seen as a significant step in transforming and growing the capacity of the Australian space sector and will focus on developing downstream markets for space-derived information services. For more information, click [here](#). Other SSIs have been signed with industry partners such as Airbus, Sitael and Nova Systems.

The Government has also committed to investing \$260 million to develop world leading satellite capabilities, which would increase GPS accuracy in both metropolitan and regional areas of Australia.

Australia's plan for the civil space sector over the next decade is outlined in [Advancing Space: Australian Civil Space Strategy 2019-2028](#).

Further Information

For further information on the Australian Space Agency, click [here](#).

For information on the Prime Minister's media release about Australia's \$150 million commitment to a partnership with NASA, click [here](#).

To read more about the strategic vision for Australia's space sector, click [here](#).

If you require further information on the development of the Australian Space sector, or the \$150 million partnership with NASA, please don't hesitate to contact [David Alexander](#) on +61 457 400 524, [Grahame Morris](#) on +61 411 222 680 or [Georga Nonnenmacher](#) on +61 457 662 422.