



**Testimony of the CompTIA Space Enterprise Council, GPS Innovation Alliance, and
Aerospace Industries Association
Submitted for the Record
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
“Industries of the Future”
January 17, 2020**

The CompTIA Space Enterprise Council, GPS Innovation Alliance (GPSIA), and Aerospace Industries Association jointly submit this statement to highlight the space industry’s role in supporting our nation’s global technological competitiveness.

For seven decades, America’s space industry has been at the forefront of technological innovation. From the golden era of Apollo to recent developments in smallsat technology, America’s space enterprise is leading the world in advancements that will have a profound impact for decades to come. According to NASA, more than 1,600 technology transfer successes have been documented over the years, which include commercial applications in health and medicine, transportation, public safety, consumer goods, agriculture, environmental resources, computer technology, manufacturing, and energy conversion. The next generation of American satellites have the potential to bring significant benefits to American citizens and help drive our “smart economy.” Our next generation of GPS satellites, known as GPS III, are currently being launched and will bring significant position, navigation, and timing upgrades to existing technologies that rely on the GPS signal to operate efficiently and effectively.

Over the next decade, technologies that were once thought to be futuristic will play an increasingly important role in shaping our economy and basic way of life. These technologies – from autonomous cars to the next generation of drones, will need to rely on a suite of satellite-based capabilities to function properly. Broadband satellite communications, GPS, and satellite imagery will all play a vital role in enabling these emerging technologies.

In seeking to drive global competitiveness, it is critical that our space industry be included in any investment strategy. In 2018, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) estimated the value of the U.S. space industry at \$158 billion. Such a figure though does not reflect the substantial economic benefits to industries dependent on space. For example, a recent study commissioned by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), estimated that GPS has generated approximately \$1.4 trillion in economic benefits since the 1980s. That same study pegged the daily economic benefits of GPS at \$1

billion. These figures will only continue to grow over the next two decades, as Bank of America and Morgan Stanley have projected a space economy valued at \$1-3 trillion by 2040.

We must aim for American exceptionalism. For seven decades this exceptionalism has been driven by the golden standard in the technology ecosystem, our space industry. The CompTIA Space Enterprise Council, GPS Innovation Alliance, and Aerospace Industries Association appreciate the opportunity to share this perspective with the Committee and stand ready to work with you on efforts to advance our nation's technological competitiveness.

About CompTIA: The Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) is a leading voice and advocate for the \$5 trillion global information technology ecosystem; and the more than 50 million industry and tech professionals who design, implement, manage, and safeguard the technology that powers the world's economy. Through education, training, certifications, advocacy, philanthropy, and market research, CompTIA is the hub for advancing the tech industry and its workforce. The Space Enterprise Council is the space advocacy arm of CompTIA, advocating for the advancement of US space commerce.

About GPSIA: The GPS Innovation Alliance was founded by Deere & Company, Garmin International, Inc. and Trimble Inc. The Alliance recognizes the ever-increasing importance of Global Positioning System (GPS) and other Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technologies to the global economy and infrastructure and is firmly committed to furthering GPS innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. The GPS Innovation Alliance seeks to protect, promote and enhance the use of GPS. For more information, please visit www.gpsalliance.org.

About Aerospace Industries Association: For over 100 years, the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) has been the voice of the aerospace and defense industry. Our work as an advocate and convener is essential to shaping policy, shedding light on the industry's impact, and empowering its future. CEO-level officers from across our 330 member companies guide these efforts, strengthening the industry's ability to effectively support America's national security and economy. For more information, visit www.aia-aerospace.org.