



The Hon. Antony J Blinken
Secretary
United States Department of State
Harry S Truman Building
2201 C Street Northwest
Washington DC 20520

Kathryn Campbell AO CSC
Secretary
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
RG Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221

17th May 2022

Dear Secretary Blinken and Secretary Campbell,

US-Australia Technology Safeguard Agreement

The CompTIA Space Enterprise Council (SEC) and the Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA) are jointly writing to request that you continue to prioritise the successful completion of negotiations of the US-Australia Technology Safeguard Agreement (TSA).

In our last letter to you dated 4 May 2021, it was emphasized that such a TSA would build on over 60 years of space collaboration between our two nations. More recently, the Australian Space Agency and NASA committed to finalizing a bilateral Space Framework Agreement in 2019 and in 2020 Australia joined the Artemis Accords, thus committing to support NASA's "Moon to Mars" missions. Our shared history of collaboration has occurred against the backdrop of the thriving US-Australian Free Trade Agreement and general deepening and solidifying of commercial and trade activity between our two democracies. As recently as last month, NASA and the Australian Space Agency signed a joint statement of intent for cooperation in Earth science at the 37th Space Symposium in Colorado Springs.

Australia is prioritizing the rapid growth of its space industry and national space infrastructure. In the past year, the Australian Government announced its first national civilian space mission, a \$1.2 billion AUD commitment to develop and launch Earth Observation satellites. The Australian Defence Force also established its Defence Space Command and released a Defence Space Strategy. There is keen interest amongst CompTIA member companies in pursuing further collaborations and opportunities with Australian space clients and suppliers alike.

At present, US companies are regularly engaged in working with Australian space companies and technologies are assisting US companies in solving space-related issues. There are significant opportunities to deepen this cooperation, including the development introduction of launch activities in Australia which would provide new and resilient options in support of US and Australian national security, civil, and commercial space priorities.

The lack of a TSA is continuing to present as a significant barrier to further trade and commercial activity across both the civilian and national security space sectors. Importantly, as the commercial space sector becomes more and more integral to national security infrastructure, the lack of a TSA is impairing our mutual security.

The UK-US Technology Safeguard Agreement provides a suitable model for the expeditious development of a US-Australia TSA. As trusted partners in the Five-Eyes arrangements and in strategic initiatives such as AUKUS regarding critical technology in the Indo-Pacific region, there are many common benefits to the US in concluding TSAs with both Australia and the United Kingdom.

Both of our organisations understand there is significant alignment between government and non-government stakeholders in the US and Australia regarding the need and timeliness of progressing this agreement.

Following a recent joint event between SIAA and the SEC at the 37th Space Symposium it was agreed that we would again seek your support to ensure that advancing a TSA remains a priority in the bilateral relationship. We would be happy to discuss further how we might contribute to progressing this beneficial outcome.

Yours faithfully,

David Logsdon

Senior Director

CompTIA Space Enterprise Council

James Brown

Chief Executive Officer

Space Industry Association of Australia