

**ARIZONA COMMERCE AUTHORITY
ARIZONA SPACE COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.
Arizona Commerce Authority
100 N. 7th Avenue, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85007

*Items which may be acted upon by the Commission are indicated with an asterisk below.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Marisa Walker, EVP, Infrastructure & Sustainability, served as facilitator. Marisa called the meeting of the Arizona Space Commission to order at 10:00AM. A Quorum of voting members confirmed present.

Board Members Present:

Grant A. Anderson
James F. Bell
Jim Cantrell
Megan Fitzgerald
Erika Hamden
Shawn Linam

Michael McGuire
Brett Mecum
Lisa Morris
Douglas J. Nichols
Michael P. Vargas
Steve Zylstra

Board Members Not Present:

Len Munsil

II. Welcome Remarks from Ian O’Grady, Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Katie Hobbs

Ian O’Grady expressed the Governor’s gratitude to the Commissioners for their willingness to develop a strategic plan and providing their expertise and time to the Commission. He emphasized the importance of their work and the unique capabilities and strengths of Arizona.



III. Commissioner Introductions

- Grant A. Anderson, President and CEO, Paragon Space Development Corporation
- James F. Bell, Regents Professor, School of Earth & Space Exploration, Arizona State University
- Jim Cantrell, CEO and co-founder, Phantom Space Corporation
- Megan Fitzgerald, Senior Director, Government & Community Relations, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Erika Hamden, Director, University of Arizona Space Institute
- Shawn Linam, President and CEO, Qwaltec, Inc.
- Michael McGuire, Adjutant General, Arizona National Guard
- Brett Mecum, President, Cadmus Public Affairs
- Lisa Morris, Vice President, Supply Chain, Virgin Galactic
- Douglas J. Nichols, Mayor, City of Yuma
- Michael P. Vargas, Strategic Partnerships Lead, Air and Space STEM Outreach Office, Griffiths Institute
- Steve Zylstra, President and CEO, Arizona Technology Council

Commissioner biographies are included in an appendix to the minutes.

IV. Commission Statutory Requirements

ACA staff provided an overview of the statute establishing the Commission. A key objective of the Commission is the development of a strategic plan.

a) Strategic Plan

- There appears to be consensus that the forthcoming strategic plan should include several components (Infrastructure, R&D, Workforce, Entrepreneurship, Supply Chain, Capital Formation and Marketing/Communications)
- Commissioners will self-select around these areas to begin the work of fleshing out content.
- Starting in August to December, the Commission will meet monthly to prepare an interim Report that could be socialized with Arizona Policy Makers during the next legislative session. January through June, the Commission will convene every other month. It was proposed that June and July the Commission would take a reprieve.
- Supporting materials include the *ACA Foresight Space Tech Report* and a powerpoint, *Space in Arizona: A Thriving Industry* produced by the Arizona Tech Council
- A sharepoint is being set up to facilitate content sharing and to serve as a resource for the Space Commission

b) MarCom

- A Lunar Landing Day or Moon Day Proclamation by the Governor is being drafted for her consideration.
- Arizona's space capabilities are often overlooked both within the state and by external stakeholders. A key recommendation is the development of a AZ Space Tech Campaign to elevate awareness on our competencies and the critical mass of companies, university, educational, military and infrastructure assets in the state.
- Several Commissioners expressed support for Congressional Briefings. To date, Senators Kelly and Gallego and Representatives Ciscomani and Gosar have expressed interest in the work of the Space Commission. During the discussion, it was mentioned that a federal Space Caucus exists and should be included in the outreach strategy. A 1-pager on the Commission is under development to support formal outreach.
- During an upcoming Commission meeting, an overview of the Arizona Legislative Process and Federal Engagement Strategies will be provided.

c) Supply Chain

- It was recommended that the Strategic Plan include an initiative to inventory our Space ecosystem to identify suppliers within our state and those that should be targeted for a relocation effort. Additional elements could include encouraging suppliers to organize into consortiums to respond to procurement requirements. A key objective would be to position Arizona as the location for a concentration of tier 2 capabilities—a go to ecosystem for growth.

d) Infrastructure

- A recommendation was made to explore the potential to optimize access to and development of State Land. Initial outreach was made for a discussion with State Land and DEMA. ACA is preparing a map for the identification of strategic locations
- Yuma submitted their NSF Space Port Proposal in April. Sierra Vista is advancing a proposal for a landing facility. Commissioners underscored there are not enough launch/land sites.

e) Workforce and R&D

- UofA and ASU have extensive competencies in NASA funded research. Please note below article on NASA Arizona Spend and a feature of UA Aspera Mission.
- Griffith Institute associated with the USAF is focused on developing STEM programs and students.
- ERAU offers a breadth of degrees and training opportunities.
- The SciTech Institute, an effort supported by the AZ Tech Council, organizes stem programming in nearly every AZ community, multi states and several countries. Their Chief Science Officer Program mentors middle and high school students for leadership and science.

V. **ACA Foresight AZ: Space Tech Overview**

ACA staff provided a high-level overview of the Foresight AZ: Space Tech Report. The report included information on space industry segments satellites, space launch vehicles, space tourism, defense applications and mining.

VI. **Administrative Items**

a) Proposed Meeting Cadence

1. August 13th 2025 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. (ACA, Phoenix)
2. September 10, 2025 10:00 .M.-3:00 P.M. (ASU, Phoenix)
3. October 15, 2025 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. (ERAU, Prescott)
4. November 12, 2025 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. (UA Space Institute, Tucson)
5. December 10, 2025 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. (Virgin Galactic, Phoenix)
6. January 14, 2026 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. (Yuma)
7. March 11, 2026 10:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M. (**NOTE**, Proposed for a Commission Meeting and a Public Event on the Commission's Interim Findings/Report at Arizona Christian University, Glendale, AZ)
8. May 13, 2026, 10:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.
9. June – July Commission Summer Break
10. August 12, 2026 10:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.
11. October 14, 2026 10:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.
12. December 8, 2026 10:00 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.

b) Tenure

1. An allotment was carried out as required by statute the results include:

Governor Hobbs

- Grant Anderson & Erika Hamden- 6 Years
- James Bell & Douglas Nicholls- 4 Years
- Shawn Linam, Lisa Morris & Michael Vargas- 2 Years

Senate President Peterson

- Jim Cantrell- 6 Years
- Len Munsil- 4 Years
- Megan Fitzgerald- 2 Years

House Speaker Toma

- Brett Mecum- 6 Years
- Steve Zylstra- 4 Years
- Michael McGuire- 2 Years

The Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker can reappoint Commissioners.

Ad hoc committees will be established to leverage the breadth of experts seeking an appointment and a pipeline of talent for future Commissioners.

c) Leadership

Agenda Item deferred until a future meeting

d) Charter

The ACA is preparing a charter that will outline the roles and responsibilities of the Commissioners. It will be shared in July prior to the August meeting. This will support a call for a Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioners will be encouraged to express their interest in filling these roles.

VII. Future Agenda Items

Reports/Articles of Interest

- UofA: https://www.pinalcentral.com/arizona_news/nasa-selects-rocket-for-ua-led-aspera-mission/article_c9340865-d082-47d4-a34a-162f451fbe9f.html?utm_source=trellis&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Clips%20for%20May%2024-27,%202025
- NASA's Arizona Science Spend: [NASA's Arizona science spend - Axios Phoenix](#)
- KPMG 2025 Futures Reports (Space Economy included section): <https://kpmg.com/kpmg-us/content/dam/kpmg/pdf/2025/kpmg-2025-futures-report.pdf>

Events

- “Innovate Space, Global Economic Summit” event on July 22 at the Amazon HQ2 facility in Arlington Virginia. (Attached: Registration Email, “Ready for What’s Next to the Global Space Economy”). 1 day event focused on Space as an engine for economic growth. Organized by the Space Foundation, it will include information on the 2024 Global Space Economy number reveal.
- “33rd Annual Meeting of the Aerospace States Association” event on July 28-31 in Virginia Beach, Virginia (Attached: Registration Email, “Develop Aerospace Policy...”). Multiday event focused on state level aerospace policy. Event will include tours of NASA Wallops/Mid-Atlantic Regional Space Port, NASA Langley Research Center and the Naval Station Norfolk.

VIII. Call to the Public

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Commission may not discuss items that are not on the agenda.

IX. Adjournment

12:00PM

