



**The Hon. Antony J Blinken**

Secretary

United States Department of State

Harry S Truman Building

2201 C Street Northwest

Washington DC 20520

**Minister of Trade and Industry Iselin Nybø**

The Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries

Kongens gate 8

0032 Oslo

Norway

**Minister of Foreign Affairs Ine Eriksen Sørreide**

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Victoria Terrasse

0032 Oslo

Norway

11 May 2021

Dear Secretary Blinken, Minister Nybø and Minister Eriksen Sørreide

### **The need for a US-Norwegian Technology Safeguard Agreement**

The CompTIA Space Enterprise Council (SEC) and the Norwegian Industrial Forum for Space Activities (NIFRO) are industry association representing space companies in the US and in Norway. We would jointly like to express the need for an expeditious completion of a US-Norway Technology Safeguard Agreement (TSA) to facilitate for cooperation between our members.

Norway and the US have a long and strong history of space cooperation, both in the civil and military domain. The space sector is rapidly developing in both countries and new opportunities for cooperation are emerging, but which cannot move forward until a TSA is in place.

The need for a TSA is particularly pertinent to facilitate for cooperation between American and Norwegian companies looking to utilize and participate in the activities connected to the spaceport at Andøya in northern Norway. The spaceport has a strategic position in the Arctic, dual-use capabilities and will offer easy access for launch vehicle and global satellite operators (allies including American) to polar and sun-synchronous orbits.

Norway and the US have been cooperating at Andøya for over half a century, including sounding rocket activities, research experiments and testing of defense systems. The new spaceport will offer both strategic and commercial benefits for the US and Norway combined, but there is a need to develop the appropriate legal framework to facilitate for these new activities. We represent members who wish to cooperate but are prevented from doing so until a TSA is in place.

To seize the opportunities related to a continued development of US-Norwegian space relations, we strongly encourage you to support the US-Norway TSA initiative, and get the TSA negotiation and approval moving forward as soon as possible.

Regards,



David Logsdon

Senior Director

CompTIA Space Enterprise Council

Mari A. Eldholm

Mari Eldholm

Director

Norwegian Industrial Forum for Space  
Activities

Cc:

Embassy of Norway, Washington DC

Embassy of the United States, Oslo

Norwegian Ministry of Defence

Norwegian Space Agency

Ms Pamela Durham, Director Office of Missile, Biological, and Chemical Nonproliferation, US  
Department of State

### **About CompTIA**

The Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) is a leading voice and advocate for the \$5.2 trillion global information technology ecosystem; and the more than 75 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.

Website: [www.CompTIA.org](http://www.CompTIA.org)

### **About NIFRO**

The Norwegian Industrial Forum for Space Activities (NIFRO) is the national industry organization for the Norwegian space sector. NIFRO's mandate is to facilitate for growth and development in the Norwegian space sector by representing our members in political processes, organise events and facilitating for dialogue with national and international partners. NIFRO represent a broad range of actors in the up-stream, downstream and service segments of the Norwegian space ecosystem. This includes larger companies, SMEs, Start-ups, research institutions and universities.

Website: [www.nifro.no](http://www.nifro.no)