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 Søreide
The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Victoria Terrasse
0032 Oslo
Norway

11 May 2021

Dear Secretary Blinken, Minister Nybø and Minister Eriksen Søreide

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
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

About NIFRO

The Norwegian Industrial Forum for Space Activities (NIFRO) is the national industry organization for the Norwegian space sector. NIFROs 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