



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

Senator The Hon. Marise Payne
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
RG Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221

4 May 2021

Dear Secretary Blinken and Minister Payne,

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 expedite the successful completion of a US-Australia Technology Safeguard Agreement (TSA) during 2021, the 70th Anniversary of the American-Australian alliance.

Australia and the United States have long shared equities and mutual interdependence in space systems and missions. Canberra's Deep Space Communications Complex has supported NASA's most important space missions for over half a century, and the Australian Department of Defence has provided integral and critical support and assets to US national security space operations for nearly four decades. Similarly, the United States has been critical to much of Australia's space activity, from space-derived "consumables" to militarily relevant space missions. Recognizing this, the US and Australia established a strategic partnership on space situational awareness in 2010 and subsequently enacted a range of joint space initiatives to deepen and foment mutual security.

In 2019, the Australian Space Agency and NASA committed to finalizing a bilateral Space Framework Agreement and in 2020 Australia joined the Artemis Accords, thus committing to support NASA's "Moon to Mars" missions. These foundational activities occurred

against the backdrop of the thriving US-Australian Free Trade Agreement and general deepening and solidifying of commercial and trade activity between the two democracies. Australia is now prioritizing the rapid growth of its space industry and national space infrastructure, including defence space infrastructure. 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 now presenting a barrier to further trade and commercial activity across both the civilian and national security space sectors. The successful completion of the UK-US Technology Safeguard Agreement provides a suitable model for the expeditious development of a US-Australia TSA. Indeed, as trusted partners in the five-eyes arrangements and in strategic initiatives 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 industry forums and their space enterprise memberships 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. We seek your support to ensure this happens during 2021 and would be happy to discuss further how we might contribute to progressing this beneficial outcome.

Yours faithfully,



Tim Parsons
Chairperson
Space Industry Association of Australia

David Logsdon
Senior Director, Public Sector
CompTIA Space Enterprise Council

Cc:

Embassy of Australia, Washington DC

Embassy of the United States, Canberra

Mr Tony Sheehan, Deputy Secretary International Security, Humanitarian and Consular Group, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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.

www.comptia.org

About SIAA

The Space Industry Association of Australia is the national peak body for the space industry in Australia, representing more than 600 members. Formed in 1992, SIAA hosted the 2017 International Astronautical Congress in Adelaide and works closely with the Australian government and member companies to grow the space industry and economy in Australia.

www.spaceindustry.com.au