



Written by [Veronika Kyrylenko](#) on December 19, 2025

Trump's "Space Superiority" Executive Order: Consolidating Power Beyond Earth

On Thursday, President Donald Trump signed an executive order titled "[Ensuring American Space Superiority](#)." The order outlines a unified strategy for U.S. dominance in space, merging exploration, defense, and commerce into a single mission. It calls for a return to the Moon and the establishment of "lunar outposts," the deployment of lunar nuclear reactors, the buildout of next-generation missile defense systems, and the rapid expansion of a "space economy."

The intent is explicit. "Superiority in space is a measure of national vision and willpower," the order states, adding that space technologies "contribute substantially to the Nation's strength, security, and prosperity." Space is defined not as a scientific common, but as a strategic domain to be controlled.

That logic was established earlier this year. In August, Trump signed an [executive order](#) that designated NASA as an agency whose primary function involves national security or intelligence work. Though limited to labor classification, the move effectively stripped NASA of its purely civilian posture and placed it firmly within the national-security architecture. The new order proceeds from that assumption, treating civil space activity as inseparable from defense objectives.

The strategy heavily relies on public-private partnerships. The state sets goals and absorbs risk. "Private" firms build, operate, and profit. "Security and prosperity" become the language through which state power and global capital move together beyond Earth.

The Moon as Infrastructure

The order commits the United States to returning astronauts to the Moon by 2028. It directs NASA to do so through the Artemis Program.

[Artemis](#) is NASA's flagship lunar program. It is designed to send crews back to the Moon for the first time since Apollo. Unlike Apollo, Artemis is not a short-visit mission. It is structured around repeated flights, permanent equipment, and long-term operations aimed at establishing "the first long-term presence on the Moon." It is also a step toward "human missions to Mars." The program includes the [Space Launch System](#) rocket, the [Orion](#) crew capsule, a planned lunar space station known as [Gateway](#), and commercial landers built by private companies.

The executive order makes clear that Artemis is not about symbolic exploration. Lunar missions, the order states, will "lay the foundations for lunar economic development" and "prepare for the journey to Mars."



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In practical terms, this means using the Moon as a staging ground. Its lower gravity makes launches easier than from Earth. Its surface is expected to host fuel production, power systems, and communications infrastructure. The Moon will become a logistics hub for deeper space operations.

By 2030, the strategy escalates. The United States will begin “establishing initial elements of a permanent lunar outpost.” The objective is unambiguous. It is “to ensure a sustained American presence in space and enable the next steps in Mars exploration.”

Space Security

Another pillar is “national security.” The administration commits to “securing and defending American vital national and economic security interests in, from, and to space,” treating space as an integrated theater of operations.

Central to that effort is missile defense. The order directs the government to begin “developing and demonstrating prototype next-generation missile defense technologies by 2028.” That explicitly links to [Executive Order 14186](#), “The Iron Dome for America.” Framed as a “next-generation missile defense shield,” the concept relies on a layered architecture of sensors, tracking systems, and space-based platforms. Such systems are designed for persistent awareness. While justified as protection against external threats, they also expand continuous monitoring capabilities, narrowing the boundary between foreign defense and domestic surveillance.

The scope extends well beyond Earth orbit. It mandates the ability to “detect, characterize, and counter threats to United States space interests from very-low Earth orbit and through cislunar space.” This includes the region between Earth and the Moon, signaling that lunar space is now viewed as a strategic zone.

The order singles out one risk in particular. It calls for countering “any placement of nuclear weapons in space,” elevating orbital and cislunar space into the nuclear deterrence framework.

The White House fact sheet presents this expansion as unavoidable, saying,

Protecting critical space assets and activities is essential for military readiness and for defending America’s economic dominance.

Space security, in this framework, is not defensive alone. It is foundational to military power and economic control.

Allies and partners are encouraged to align with U.S. standards, invest in America’s space industrial base, and increase joint security and commercial activity.

Space Economy

The order repeatedly invokes the phrase “commercial space economy.” It defines it through targets and mechanisms.

The administration aims to grow this economy “through the power of American free enterprise.” It seeks to attract “at least \$50 billion of additional investment in American space markets by 2028.”

This includes launch systems, orbital platforms, and lunar operations. It also includes the end of the International Space Station as a government-owned facility.

The fact sheet celebrates this shift. It says the order “spurs private sector innovation and investment by



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upgrading launch infrastructure and developing a commercial pathway to replace the International Space Station by 2030.”

In simpler terms, NASA steps back from ownership. Companies step forward, and the state becomes a customer.

The order also accelerates how this transition happens. It directs agencies to prioritize commercial solutions, use streamlined contracting authorities, and favor faster, less restrictive procurement models.

Nuclear Power

One of the provisions involves nuclear energy. The order directs agencies to enable “near-term utilization of space nuclear power by deploying nuclear reactors on the Moon and in orbit, including a lunar surface reactor ready for launch by 2030.”

To coordinate this effort, the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology must issue guidance on a “National Initiative for American Space Nuclear Power” within 60 days.

The fact sheet places this in a broader context. It notes that in January 2021, Trump issued an executive order “promoting small modular reactors for National defense and space exploration.”

Nuclear power is treated as essential infrastructure, not an exception.

Who Really Owns the New Space Age?

The White House frames the order as historic. “President Trump has demonstrated consistent leadership as a driving force for American strength and achievement in space,” the fact sheet declares. As proof, it cites the creation of the Space Force and “seven groundbreaking Space Policy Directives.”

What this account omits is how consolidated space policy has already become. As *The New American* [reported](#) in 2017, NASA’s government-run model had “underachieved spectacularly,” paving the way for privatization. SpaceX and Blue Origin were eager to move into roles once held by the state.

Since then, the companies’ owners, Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos, respectively, have become formidable figures in the national power structure. Their companies are key contractors for the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies. That places them squarely within the Deep State — a permanent network of defense, intelligence, and bureaucratic interests that operates largely beyond electoral control.

Musk’s and Bezos’ influence extends well beyond space, reaching into artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, cloud computing, media, finance, and the systems that govern information and capital flows.

Their firms are also active in the global-policy initiatives of the World Economic Forum (WEF) — the UN’s [key partner](#) in achieving Agenda 2030. At the same time, their space activities align with the United Nations’ [Space2030 Agenda](#), which treats space infrastructure as part of planetary governance.

Viewed in this light, Trump’s order advances an agenda largely disconnected from sovereignty and freedom.

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