

White House highlights small satellite technology innovation and entrepreneurship

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The White House announced a new initiative to identify and establish programs to drive innovation using small satellite (smallsat) technology. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) will lead the *Harnessing the Small Satellite Revolution* initiative in collaboration with NASA, the Department of Commerce (DOC), the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), and other federal agencies.

As a part of this initiative, NASA will establish a Small Spacecraft Virtual Institute housed at the NASA Ames Research Center in California. This institute will serve as a hub of technological information on small spacecraft technology, and will promote programs, opportunities, and best practices on the subject. In addition, NASA proposes spending up to \$30 million to purchase Earth science observational datasets from non-governmental small satellites.

Also as a part of the initiative, the DOC's Office of Space Commerce will advise decision makers on critical policy issues affecting the commercial space industry, such as smallsat licensing issues; and the NGA will partner with the General Services Administration to establish a central database where individuals can access and purchase commercially-provided imagery, data, analytical capabilities, and services.

Sources: CNN News, White House Office of the Press Secretary
