

NASA Advisory Council Recommendation

Export Control Reform – Extending International Space Station Export Control Relief 2018-03-01 (RPC-01)

Recommendation:

NASA should make it a priority to lead an effort in collaboration with the Department of State and the Department of Commerce to expand the exceptions to the U.S. Munitions List (USML) and special provisions within the Commerce Control List (CCL) provided to the International Space Station (ISS) to explicitly include the Lunar Gateway, commercial habitats within the ISS program, NASA-led missions, and private sector platforms, regardless of location, including suborbital, orbital, cislunar, and deep space, which would benefit from the same relief from export control provisions that the ISS enjoys.

Major Reasons for the Recommendation:

This recommendation will avoid problematic export controls on habitats attached to the ISS, commercial space station(s), the Lunar Gateway, and other NASA missions. Such relief will bolster investment in and the safe operation of future space systems.

Consequences of No Action on the Recommendation:

Failure to act on the recommendation could have a chilling effect on investors otherwise willing to back commercial space activities and would hinder the operations and safety of Gateway and other future NASA missions.

NASA Response:

NASA concurs with the recommendation to broaden the favorable export control treatment enjoyed by the International Space Station (ISS) to other space-based systems. NASA already has begun engaging with interagency partners as part of the broader efforts to streamline export control restrictions associated with Space Policy Directive 2. In particular, we have identified a number of technologies and sensors that, while important to current and future NASA missions, as well as future commercial endeavors in space, are not important from a national security perspective, and therefore merit less export control restrictions.

Enclosure