



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3140 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3140

DEFENSE SCIENCE
BOARD

The Honorable Mark Foulon
Acting Under Secretary for Industry and Security
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington DC 20230

Dear Mr. Foulon,:

As you know, the U.S. space industry is critical to our nation's security and to our armed forces. It is imperative that the Department of Defense maintain a current and accurate understanding of industry health and be alert to any adverse issues. Therefore, at the request of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, & Logistics), Mr. Ken Krieg, and the Under Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Ronald Sega, the Defense Science Board has formed a task force to investigate the health of the space industrial base.

To ensure that the task force has accurate and timely data on this subject the Defense Science Board requests that the Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) conduct an industry-wide survey to assess the health of the U.S. space industrial base, in particular lower tier contractors. Specifically, this survey will collect data on the U.S. space industry in the areas of production; finances, sourcing, exports, research and development, government business practices, workforce, and competition. We request the survey begin no later than November 1, 2006 and the data collection, validation, and tabulation be completed by no later than the end of February 2007. All related follow-up support should be completed by September 2007.

For the purpose of conducting this survey, the U.S. Air Force, on behalf of the DSB task force, will provide BIS with the necessary funding. Moreover, to help facilitate this effort the task force Executive Secretary will provide BIS with technical support regarding space products, technologies, and companies.

We look forward to your participation in this important endeavor and thank you for your valued support in ensuring our national security.

Sincerely,

William Schneider, Jr.
Chairman, Defense Science Board