



Space: Unlocking Imagination, Fostering Innovation and Strengthening Security

SPACE INDUSTRY WELCOMES REVIEW OF SPACE ACTIVITIES ACT

The Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA) welcomes and strongly supports today's announcement by the Hon Christopher Pyne, MP, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, that the Space Activities Act will be reviewed.

The Act came into force in 1998 and reflected the circumstances and priorities of the time. It was predicated on the assumption that the civil space industry sector in Australia would involve large launch vehicles launching large satellites into space. This has not happened.

"The risk and liability assumptions that underpin the Act in its current form are acting as a brake on the development of a viable Australian space industry", said Brett Biddington, a spokesperson for the SIAA.

The revolution in computing combined with miniaturisation and advanced manufacturing techniques now means that much smaller, but capable, satellites can be built. These satellites can also act as concept demonstrators and test-beds for larger systems.

There are a number of Australian entrepreneurs and start-up companies just champing at the bit to move space projects forward. There are active cubesat (10cm x 10cm x 10cm satellites) projects at several Australian universities that have significant potential to stimulate technology transfer and new business models for Australian firms. There is now the infrastructure in Australia to fabricate, test and qualify small satellites and space-based sensors. Also there are several Australian launch proposals under development.

Mr Biddington said that the review of the Act could not have come at a better time. Industry is primed and the review of the Act promises to stimulate 21st Century industry development and innovation and a sector of increasing importance to the national economy. There is also important export potential.

The SIAA is committed to working closely with Government on the review and will encourage its members and other interested parties to participate in the public consultation process to achieve the best possible outcome.

About the SIAA.

The SIAA is Australia's peak space industry advocacy and promotion organisation. Membership is open to companies, research organisations and individuals with business and professional interests in the development of a viable space industry in Australia. See: <http://www.spaceindustry.com.au/>

The SIAA will host the world's largest space conference, the International Astronautical Congress in Adelaide in the week of 25 September 2017.

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