Vice President Kamala Harris  
Chair, National Space Council  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Vice President Harris,

This letter is to respectfully offer our support for the ninth meeting of the Japan-U.S. Comprehensive Dialogue on Space to be held in the near future. In particular, we would like to offer any appropriate support to enhance information exchange between U.S. and Japanese companies seeking to expand national security space cooperation and commerce between our two countries.

The National Security Space Association (NSSA) is the only industrial association, with nearly 100 member companies from all tiers of the U.S. space industrial and technology bases, dedicated to supporting the U.S. national security space enterprise. We recognize that the United States’ network of alliances, based on shared values, interests, and objectives, is a cornerstone of international security.

Alliance relationships, and the U.S.-Japan relationship in particular, are an asymmetric advantage in the ongoing competition with rival, autocratic nations whose actions to alter the international system threaten peace and security. Enhanced commercial and defense space cooperation with Japan, based on the principles of mutual benefit and reciprocity, serve to strengthen political and security ties, create opportunities to leverage each other’s technology and industrial capabilities, improve the interoperability, capacity, and resilience of space forces, and contribute to deterrence of aggression.

NSSA has recommended that U.S. industry be allowed to offer their best capabilities, with appropriate security safeguards, to support allies’ national security space programs as well as develop U.S. military capabilities that contribute to more effective joint and combined arms operations in the IndoPacific region. In particular, we ask that you encourage U.S.-Japan cooperative efforts across the full range of space capabilities, such as satellite communications, position, navigation, and timing, missile warning, surveillance and reconnaissance, space situational awareness, and maritime domain awareness. Among the closest of U.S. allies, Japan’s impressive space capabilities have great potential to deter aggression and maintain peace in the Western Pacific. This potential can only be realized however, through closer U.S.-Japan cooperation at all levels, government and industry.
Space cooperation is a potent symbol and a critical necessity to the security, safety, and prosperity of both the United States and Japan. The NSSA and our members look forward to a productive comprehensive space dialogue and a successful summit meeting between President Biden and Prime Minister Kishida. We hope there will be opportunities to foster engagements between U.S. and Japanese space and technology companies on the margin of the dialog and summit meetings. We stand ready to work with your staff and U.S. departments and agencies in any way that is helpful.

We thank you for your leadership of the National Space Council to bring together all elements of the nation’s space enterprise at this critical time.

Sincerely,

Joe Dodd

Chairman
National Security Space Association

cc:
Honorable Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense
Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State
General Charles Brown, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Mr. Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor
Mr. Chirag Parikh, Executive Secretary, National Space Council