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**TOPIC:** Commercialization of Space

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## **Commercialization of Space Recent Updates**

Over the last few weeks, there have been multiple updates and changes to the commercialization of space. For instance, European countries, as well as the United States and Japan, who work for the International Space Station (ISS) have been discussing how they will be able to continue working on and developing commercial space stations that are in low Earth orbit. Their discussions include ways of revisiting their fundamentals on cooperation. According to the director of science and applications, Peter Gräf, talks between companies and agencies were discussed on how the arrangements would change through a commercial station. In addition, implementing payments to companies who control commercial space stations was mentioned; however, this solution may face multiple issues on a political level. Another solution brought up was for ventures working on commercial stations, led by the United States, to partner with companies in different countries. The ISS is continuing to develop how they will execute this issue.<sup>1</sup>

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is planning to create a bureau that primarily focuses on space. The FCC announced this Thursday and said that it would monitor the satellites and orbitals that organizations plan to launch. Currently, the FCC has been a significant player in monitoring satellites; this included writing on when satellites that are out of service are supposed to be removed and on supplying companies licenses for space internet services. The major issue that the space bureau faces is how they will be able to monitor the mass amounts of companies fighting to launch multiple satellites: they can receive the newest generation of the

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<sup>1</sup> Foust, J. (2022, October 26). ISS partners weigh options for using commercial space stations. SpaceNews. Retrieved November 10, 2022, from <https://spacenews.com/iss-partners-weigh-options-for-using-commercial-space-stations/>

internet. Many companies such as OneWeb and Amazon plan to set up new satellite systems that will provide internet; the FCC will be caught in arguments between internet providers because they decide whether companies and satellites are approved for orbit. This conflict is only one of the many issues, as the space bureau still needs to be situated with other FCC commissioners and Congress.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the FCC must consider the new technologies formed from the commercialization of space. These problems result in delays for the bureau; however, these issues are working to be resolved.

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<sup>2</sup> Heilweil, R. (2022, November 3). The FCC wants to regulate space. have fun! Vox. Retrieved November 10, 2022, from <https://www.vox.com/recode/2022/11/3/23438921/federal-communications-comission-bureau-space-elon-musk-starlink-project-kuiper-amazon-oneweb>