

KEY QUESTIONS FOR OUR PANELISTS AND AUDIENCE

- How will the deep and potentially long-lasting recession – and the global economic slowdown – affect the in-coming Admin’s taste for ambitious and costly space initiatives? Will President O see such expenditures and projects as a mechanism for creating high-tech high-paying American jobs? As a means to a broader end, such as bolstering national security or promoting US national identity? Or as “nice-to-haves” that must await a more favorable budgetary climate?
- How aggressively will the in-coming admin seek to promote U.S. global competitiveness in the space business? As we all know, foreign competition – and the subsidies that typically underwrite those programs -- have substantially impacted U.S. industry. And what about US natl secy export controls? How will Pres O balance the competing interests of safeguarding national security and promoting exports? Will he be willing and able to cut through this Gordian Knot and give US satellite manufacturers the boost they have been looking for?
- How will the in-coming Admin view the current organizational and bureaucratic competition btw the DOD and the DNI/IC? Will he allow the 2 camps to essentially “go their separate ways,” with DOD using MIP funds to pursue its agenda and program goals, and the IC using the NIP to do the same? Or will he demand a more integrated approach? What would – or should – such an integrated natl secy space architecture look like? What will it mean for future natl secy space capabilities and programs such as space radar, FIA, and BASIC?
- Can the Nation reclaim its past glory in the area of natl security space systems? Will severe budget pressures and the “no-failure” climate permit the expenditure of billions, or tens of billions, on cutting-edge, expand-the-technological-envelope systems that operate on new physical principles? Can the current, dysfunctional standard acquisition process used for procuring complex satellite systems ever be fixed? Can and should the NRO get “back to black”, or is it time for other agencies to get into the act in a more robust way, as a competitor to the once-revered NRO?

- How will the in-coming admin view China's and Russia's (and other nations') space pursuits? Will Pres O see space as just another domain for national rivalry and competition and even warfare, or will he see "the final frontier" as a place that solely should be devoted to friendly, cooperative ventures?

And, finally

- How will Pres O spend his quite substantial but nonetheless finite political capital in the natl secy arena? Will it be "all Iraq and Afghanistan, all the time"? Will he leave it to his cabinet officers to squabble over this admittedly complicated and oftentimes arcane set of issues? Or will he seek to set an early and bold direction?
- To address some of these issues, we are pleased to have three very capable and seasoned panelists – insightful analysts, commentators, practitioners, and leaders....