



MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

By

**The Hon. Alexa Lightbourne, JP, MP
Minister of Home Affairs**

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Reconstitution of the Space and Satellite Advisory Panel

Mr. Speaker,

I rise today to update this Honourable House on the work being advanced by the Ministry of Home Affairs, through the Department of Energy, to reconstitute Bermuda's Space and Satellite Advisory Panel.

This work represents another step forward in the Government's commitment to economic diversification, regulatory innovation, and long-term strategic planning for Bermuda's future.

Mr. Speaker,

Honourable Members of this House may recall that Bermuda previously undertook a strategic initiative to position itself within the global space and satellite industry through the development of the Bermuda National Space Strategy 2020–2025, supported by an earlier Space and Satellite Advisory Panel.

This work established a clear vision for Bermuda to leverage its strengths in regulation, insurance, and international partnerships to participate meaningfully in the growing global space economy.

The strategy identified key opportunity areas, including satellite communications, earth observation, and space insurance, and established strategic pillars focused on policy development, domestic capacity building, international engagement, and the utilisation of Bermuda’s orbital resources.

Mr. Speaker,

Shortly after the development of this strategy, the global COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted its intended implementation. The previous Advisory Panel, which played a central role in shaping the strategy and guiding its early momentum, was unable to reconvene as

planned. As a result, many of the initiatives envisioned under the 2020–2025 framework, including deeper industry engagement, regulatory advancement, and capacity-building efforts, were not fully realised.

Now, in 2026, this Ministry is taking deliberate steps to build on that earlier foundation. The reconstitution of the Space and Satellite Advisory Panel represents not a restart, but a continuation and modernisation of that original vision, one that reflects both the lessons learned and the evolving realities of the global space economy.

Mr. Speaker,

Bermuda has a long history of contributing significantly to highly specialised international industries. Our jurisdiction has established a reputation for strong regulations, solid governance, financial services, insurance knowledge, and global connections. These are not abstract strengths. They are practical advantages that Bermuda can use to compete in new and developing industries with purpose, discipline, and credibility.

Opportunities in satellite communications, earth observation, space finance, insurance, data services, research and development, and new technologies are all contributing to the rapid expansion of the global space economy. Bermuda must therefore be deliberate in determining where we

can engage, where we can collaborate, and where we can provide lasting value for our people.

Mr. Speaker,

The global space economy is already valued at over \$600 billion and is projected to exceed \$1 trillion dollars in the coming decades. This is not a distant or speculative market. It is a rapidly expanding commercial sector with tangible opportunities today.

For Bermuda, the opportunity is not theoretical. By focusing on areas where we already have competitive advantage, including insurance, financial services, and regulatory frameworks, Bermuda is well positioned to capture a meaningful share of this growth and unlock new, high-value economic activity for the Island.

Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased to advise this Honourable House that I have reviewed and approved the proposed membership of the Space and Satellite Advisory Panel, enabling the Panel to be formally reconstituted and to commence its important work.

This reconstitution addresses a gap following the lapse of the previous Panel during the COVID-19 period. It also fulfils a critical requirement under to provide expert guidance on Bermuda's future direction in the space and satellite sector.

Mr. Speaker,

This goes beyond simply re-establishing a committee. The intentional creation of a targeted advisory group will support the development of Bermuda's revised National Space Strategy and ensure that our policy direction is guided by global best practices, commercial realities, and Bermuda's domestic context.

Mr. Speaker,

In addition to Bermudian regulatory, legal, financial, and industry leadership, the reconstituted Advisory Panel brings together global specialists in space financing, commercialisation, research and development, workforce development, and space policy.

The Panel will include:

- Doug Liddle, Chair of UKspace and Professor in Practice at the University of Surrey, who brings more than 30 years of experience in satellite engineering, industry development, and government engagement. He also serves as Chair of the UK Space Skills Advisory Panel.
- Colin Baldwin, Executive Director of UKspace and former Head of Local Growth Strategy at the UK Space Agency, whose experience in national strategy, cluster development, and start-up support will be invaluable.
- Libby Jackson OBE FRAeS, Head of Space at the Science Museum and former European Space Agency Flight Director and Head of Space Exploration at the UK Space Agency, will bring deep expertise in mission operations, research and development, and STEM engagement.
- Sanjeev Gordhan, General Partner at Type One Ventures, will contribute specialist knowledge in space-focused venture capital, investment frameworks, and the mobilisation of private capital.
- Professor Keith Ryden, Director of the Surrey Space Centre and Professor of Space Engineering, will bring global expertise in satellite engineering, the space environment, and research systems.
- Dr. Joanna Hart, Director of the Space Partnership, will provide expertise in investment, space cluster development, and workforce initiatives.

Bermuda representatives on the Panel include:

- Fiona Beck, Independent Director and former Bermuda Business Development Agency Director, whose experience in digital infrastructure, subsea cable systems, and international connectivity directly supports Bermuda's broader technology and digital diversification agenda.
- Craig Swan, Chief Executive Officer of the Bermuda Monetary Authority, whose experience in financial regulation, insurance supervision, and policy will support Bermuda's assessment of opportunities in space finance and risk solutions.
- Philip J. Perinchief, Attorney at Law and former Attorney-General of Bermuda, will bring expertise in aviation and space law, including satellite regulation and legislative advisory matters.

Mr. Speaker,

Collectively, this Panel provides comprehensive coverage across the key areas Bermuda must consider if we are to participate meaningfully in the global space economy. These include capital and economics, commercialisation, research and development, workforce development, insurance, legal frameworks, spectrum, satellite regulation, and local industry alignment.

The Ministry's intention is clear. Bermuda's approach must be ambitious, but it must also be credible, evidence-based, and capable of implementation.

Mr. Speaker,

The Panel will operate under a structured framework. Its work will include two plenary sessions, supported by thematic working groups focused on priority areas such as earth stations, spectrum, small satellites, space insurance, and emerging technologies.

The Panel is supported by sub-committees that organise its work, prepare materials, coordinate meetings, and ensure that its findings are clearly captured to guide Bermuda's updated National Space Strategy.

The Panel will produce two key outputs, a report that captures its findings and expert recommendations, and a roadmap that sets out Bermuda's priorities and the practical steps required to move from opportunity to implementation. These outputs will help Government identify the areas where Bermuda has a realistic competitive advantage, the policy and legislative considerations that must be addressed, and the partnerships required to deliver.

Mr. Speaker,

In many respects, the Advisory Panel’s work will bridge the gap between what was envisioned in the 2020–2025 National Space Strategy and what must now be delivered in the years ahead. It will ensure that Bermuda builds upon that earlier work with renewed focus, stronger coordination, and clear pathways to implementation.

Mr. Speaker,

The Panel’s work connects directly to a regulatory process already underway. The Ministry of Home Affairs is advancing a public consultation on the proposed Regulatory Framework for the Licensing of Earth Stations in Bermuda. That consultation forms part of Bermuda’s National Space Strategy. It invites industry, public authorities, and other interested parties to comment on the proposed licensing architecture, the spectrum charging principles, the treatment of earth stations in motion, and the compliance obligations that will govern the sector.

Mr. Speaker,

Earth stations are one of the priority themes assigned to the Panel’s working groups. This is deliberate. The Panel’s expertise will inform the Government’s review of the consultation responses and the next steps that

follow. Those steps include the Statement of Results, the finalisation of regulations, and the alignment of the licensing framework with Bermuda's updated National Space Strategy. The advisory function is built to support delivery, not to sit apart from it.

Mr. Speaker,

A key area of focus will be Bermuda's underutilised space-related assets, including its International Telecommunication Union orbital slots. These assets require careful policy consideration, commercial analysis, and strategic engagement if they are to be properly leveraged.

The Advisory Panel will assist Bermuda in developing a clearer commercialisation strategy and identifying pathways to attract satellite operators, investors, insurers, and other international stakeholders.

This work also supports Bermuda's ambition to become a leading jurisdiction for space finance. Bermuda already has a respected risk capital ecosystem, a sophisticated insurance and reinsurance market, and a financial services sector known for innovation and regulatory strength. These strengths can be applied to the space sector to attract investment,

create joint venture opportunities, and support new insurance and risk solutions.

Mr. Speaker,

This initiative forms part of the Government's broader goal of economic diversification. By developing opportunities in satellite communications, earth observation, space insurance, and related technologies, Bermuda can reduce reliance on existing industries while creating new, high-value sectors of growth.

Importantly, this work must also benefit Bermudians. The future space economy will require skills in engineering, data science, satellite communications, regulatory policy, finance, insurance, and technology. Through the work of this Panel, Bermuda will be better positioned to identify training, education, entrepreneurship, and employment pathways that allow Bermudians to participate in this emerging sector.

Mr. Speaker,

Economic diversification must not simply be about attracting new industries to Bermuda. It must also be about preparing Bermudians to take their rightful place in those industries.

Mr. Speaker,

The reconstitution of the Space and Satellite Advisory Panel will also strengthen Bermuda's international positioning. It will deepen engagement with global industry leaders, regulators, investors, and research institutions, while ensuring that Bermuda has a voice in the governance frameworks shaping the future space economy.

Small jurisdictions can play a significant role when they are clear about their value, disciplined in their execution, and confident in their strengths. Bermuda has demonstrated this before, and we must now apply that same focus to the opportunities before us in the space and satellite sector.

Mr. Speaker,

In closing, the reconstitution of the Space and Satellite Advisory Panel is a critical step in positioning Bermuda as a credible and competitive participant in the global space economy.

It will enable us to better understand our assets, strengthen our policy framework, attract investment, support innovation, and create pathways for Bermudians in high-skilled sectors of the future.

This Government remains committed to targeted, evidence-based action that advances economic diversification, strengthens Bermuda's

international competitiveness, and prepares our people for the opportunities of tomorrow.

I look forward to updating this Honourable House as the work of the Panel progresses and as we move toward the development of Bermuda's updated National Space Strategy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.