GOLDEN DOME INNOVATION WORKING GROUP CHARTER

Mission Statement

The Golden Dome Innovation Working Group brings together leaders from government, industry, and academia to strengthen the security, resilience, and technological edge of U.S. and allied space systems. The group focuses on advancing interoperable architectures, resilient operations, and the responsible adoption of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, autonomy, and commercial innovations. Through collaboration, technical standards development, and workforce initiatives, the working group will help ensure operational dominance, deterrence, and mission assurance across the increasingly contested space domain.

Context

As the U.S. faces challenges such as satellite proliferation, adversarial expansion, and increased demand for space-based data, the group focuses on enhancing the security, resilience, and technological advancement of defense assets across space and multi-domain operations. Its efforts prioritize protection against cyber and kinetic threats, seamless sensor and command integration, the adoption of AI, and commercial innovation to meet mission objectives. Central to this mission is the Golden Dome initiative—a strategic program aimed at unifying terrestrial and orbital defense systems into a robust, interoperable architecture capable of ensuring deterrence and operational dominance. Through collaborative development of technical standards, policy alignment, and next-generation workforce initiatives, the working group provides a critical forum for addressing threats and the need for agile, cyber-secure defense infrastructure in a growing and complex space ecosystem.

Scope

The Golden Dome Innovation Working Group will provide a collaborative forum to:

- Advance Interoperable Architectures: Explore and define frameworks that unify terrestrial and orbital defense systems while promoting open standards and cross-domain integration.
- Strengthen Resilience and Redundancy: Identify strategies to protect and sustain space-based assets against cyber, kinetic, and electronic threats in both peacetime and conflict.
- Accelerate Technology Adoption: Assess pathways for rapidly integrating commercial innovations such as small satellite constellations, AI-driven analytics, and edge computing into defense infrastructure.
- Enhance Command, Control, and Data Fusion: Address the challenges and opportunities of building seamless, multi-domain situational awareness and decision-making systems.
- Shape Policy and Acquisition Practices: Recommend approaches that balance speed of adoption with interoperability, security, and long-term sustainment.

- Support Workforce Development: Foster the next generation of space operators, technologists, and policy leaders through training, education, and cross-sector partnerships.
- Catalyze Flagship Initiatives: Provide thought leadership and actionable steps to advance visionary programs, including the Golden Dome initiative, that unify space and defense systems into a cohesive architecture.

Objective

The objective of the Golden Dome Innovation Working Group is to strengthen the security, resilience, and interoperability of U.S. and allied space defense systems through collaboration across government, industry, and academia. The group aims to advance interoperable architectures, enhance preparedness against cyber and kinetic threats, and accelerate the responsible adoption of emerging technologies such as AI and autonomy. It also seeks to align technical standards and policies, promote innovation, and support the development of a next-generation workforce equipped to sustain operational dominance in an increasingly contested space domain.

Deliverables

The Golden Dome Innovation Working Group will produce key deliverables designed to advance collaboration, innovation, and capability development across the space defense ecosystem. These deliverables will focus on actionable outcomes that strengthen interoperability, resilience, and mission assurance.

1. Best Practices and Standards**:** Develop and share best practices that promote the adoption of industry standards, improve interoperability, and inform acquisition strategies across government and industry partners.
2. Capability Gap Analysis: Identify gaps between current capabilities and mission requirements, providing recommendations to accelerate the acquisition process and guide future investments.
3. Reports and Insights: Publish periodic reports highlighting emerging technologies, policy developments, and trends influencing space security and defense operations.
4. Golden Dome and Flagship Initiatives: Support the development and implementation of key initiatives, including the Golden Dome program, to unify terrestrial and orbital defense systems into a cohesive architecture.
5. Podcast Series: Release a podcast series to feature expert discussions, cross-sector perspectives, and thought leadership on the evolving challenges and opportunities within the space and defense domain.

Working Group Membership

Working Group Chairs

Paul Contoveros, U.S. Space Force, Government Chair
Dr. Dianne Poster, NIST, NOAA Office of Space Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce, Government Vice Chair
Chris Lowe, Oracle, Industry Chair
Brian Fox, University of Tennessee Space Institute, Academic Chair
Dana Cave, University of Tennessee Space Institute, Academic Vice Chair
Shelby Hritz, Hritz Consulting, Advisor Chair
Lacey Wean, Team Leader, Carahsoft Chair

Working Group Chairs will:

- Attend and contribute to each Working Group meeting

- Prepare the meeting agenda, solicit topics for discussion, assign members to address discussion topics, and distribute meeting materials
- Share information of relevance; provide an update/introduction at the beginning of each meeting to encourage member engagement
- Define and oversee Working Group initiatives and activities
- Assist in all stages of the deliverable production process
- Advocate for government, academic, and industry involvement in the working group
- Referee requests and suggestions for working group membership regarding agenda, deliverables, and representation

Working Group Members

Group members are strictly voluntary, and we strive for a broad representation across government, private sector, and academia.

Working Group Members will:

- Participate in meetings, including exchanging technical information, experiences, and best practices to develop a shared understanding of the topic(s) discussed
- Gather information and work on group deliverables outside of meetings as needed
- Provide feedback on draft deliverables as requested
- Co-lead or participate in Sub-Working Groups (breakout teams/project teams) as needed
- Provide input on meeting agendas as requested

ATARC Support

Elizabeth Wyckoff, Associate Director, Working Groups
Amy Karpowicz, Working Groups Associate
Taylor Gibbs, Working Groups Associate

ATARC support will:

- Serve as program management for the Working Group
- Coordinate and drive group projects and deliverables forward
- Schedule Working Group meetings
- Develop Working Group meeting agendas along with the chairs
- Facilitate Working Group meetings along with the chairs
- Assist in distributing relevant documents and materials to Working Group members
- Record meeting minutes, post-meeting decisions, and action items, and distribute them to Working Group members after each meeting
- Assist in preparing final proposals/recommendations
- Provide marketing services for the Working Group (promoting completed deliverables, etc.)
- Develop strategies to improve Working Group engagement, including applicable cross-overs with other Working Groups and relevant events
- Coordinate Working Group Labs as applicable

Rules of Engagement

The Working Group rules of engagement are described as below:

- Meet bi-weekly from 2026 to 2027, or until amended by ATARC Support
- Join Working Group meetings prepared and with requested action items completed
- Provide respectful and constructive feedback to yield the best decisions for the Working Group's objectives
- Endeavour to balance time among members so that all may contribute. All members of the Working Group have a voice and will be listened to.
- Final decisions are made by the Working Group Co-Chairs and ATARC Support
- If a Working Group member misses a meeting, decisions will be made in their absence. The Working Group will consider on a case-by-case basis at the request of the absentee if a decision made in the absence of a member shall be revisited.

The Working Group will:

- Meet every other Wednesday from 12:30-1:30 PM EST.
- Form Sub-Working Groups (breakout teams/project teams) as needed
- Follow the group's ground rules as developed in the charter
- Meet critical deadlines in the creation of deliverables by mutual and balanced effort
- Keep in confidence draft versions of deliverable, off-the-record conversations, and non-public Working Group or ATARC plans to the extent disclosure is not required by law, regulation, or valid court order

File Sharing and Collaboration Tools

Access to the ATARC Box Account is managed by ATARC Support.

Disclaimer: Products and communications by ATARC's Golden Dome Innovation Working Group do not necessarily represent the plans or preferences of any company or government agency.