



The Aerospace Corporation (<http://www.aerospace.org>) is sponsored by the United States Air Force, and provides objective technical analyses and assessments for space programs that serve the national interest. Aerospace provides scientific and engineering support for launch, space, and related ground systems. It also provides the specialized facilities and continuity of effort required for programs that often take decades to complete. This end-to-end involvement reduces development risks and costs, and allows for a high probability of mission success. The Department of Defense has identified five core competencies for the Aerospace: launch certification, system-of-systems engineering, systems development and acquisition, process implementation, and technology application. The primary customers are the Space and Missile Systems Center of Air Force Space Command and the National Reconnaissance Office, although work is performed for civil agencies as well as international organizations and governments in the national interest