

Three Space Force Themes Industry Should Be Watching Right Now and How DWPA's Space Team Helps Clients Stay Ahead

By Mike Faunda, Space Sector Lead at Deep Water Point & Associates

The Space Force is moving with clarity and urgency. Across recent policy updates, industry events, and senior leader remarks, three themes keep surfacing. Together they show a service that is reshaping how it buys, fields, and fights in space and what it expects from industry along the way. They also highlight where Deep Water Point & Associates' Space Team is helping clients turn change into action.

1. Acquisition is being rebuilt for speed, accountability, and commercial integration

Space Force leadership has been clear that the old model of large, slow, bespoke programs is giving way to faster cycles, smaller increments, and measurable performance. Over the last two years, the service has reinforced this shift through its Space Acquisition Tenets, the Commercial Space Strategy, and a steady stream of Acquisition Decision Memorandums reviewing and reshaping programs.

We are seeing earlier cancellation of underperforming programs, heavy use of SpEC OTA as a fast lane, and a growing preference for commercial solutions where they can deliver speed and resilience. For contractors, that means more entry points, but far less tolerance for missed cost or schedule.

DWPA's Space Team brings former senior leaders from Space Systems Command, Space Force headquarters, and the broader national security space enterprise. We help clients align early to these acquisition tenets, shape credible and executable offerings, and position into OTAs and emerging programs before requirements harden. For mid tier and commercial firms in particular, we help translate policy signals into capture strategy and partnerships that hold up under this new accountability model.

2. Government and industry collaboration is becoming the operating model

Across SpEC, SSC Industry Days, and related forums, one message is consistent. The Space Force wants early, direct alignment between mission needs and industry solutions. Pitch days, rapid prototyping pathways, and open dialogue with mission owners are now

central to how requirements are shaped and programs move forward.

Discussions are grounded in specific mission needs such as space sensing, assured access, RF data processing, ground command and control, and operational test infrastructure. Success stories being shared are about capabilities moving toward fielding, not just concepts.

DWPA's team sits at the intersection of mission and industry. We help clients understand where requirements are heading, how different SSC mission areas are prioritizing investments, and how to engage the right stakeholders at the right time. Just as important, we help companies tell a clear mission story that connects their technology to warfighter outcomes, resilience, and deterrence in a way that resonates with both operators and acquisition leaders.

3. The mission is shifting toward sustained, contested space operations

Senior military leaders are signaling a doctrinal shift. Space is no longer just about launch. It is about sustained operations in a contested domain. That includes on orbit maneuver, refueling and logistics, rapid reconstitution, and resilient ground architectures that enable command, control, and data fusion.

Exercises, wargaming, and large scale operational concepts are being used to test these ideas and identify gaps. The implication is clear. Future architectures will be more distributed, more dynamic, and more integrated across government and commercial capabilities.

DWPA's Space Team helps clients map their capabilities to this evolving operational concept, whether that is logistics, autonomy, ground systems, data, or space domain awareness. We work with both emerging space companies and established primes to position into these mission areas, build the right teaming constructs, and align with the partners that will be part of the future ecosystem.

Bottom line

The Space Force is moving faster, partnering earlier, and preparing for a more dynamic and contested domain. The companies that will succeed in this environment are those that

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bring credible, executable capabilities and align tightly to mission needs.

DWPA's Space Team helps clients do exactly that, translating policy and mission direction into positioning, partnerships, and pipeline that stand up in today's faster and more accountable space acquisition environment.