

International Trade March 2022

Mississippi is the home of NASA's Stennis Space Center [NASA's Stennis Space Center | NASA](#). The Stennis Space Center helps make the State of Mississippi a hub and magnet for entrepreneurs and small and medium size businesses that are developing technologies, products and services that support both private commercial space flight as well as official NASA and military related space missions.

In recent years, there has been an important uptick on the number of businesses of all sizes that are engaged in commercial space flights both taking people to outer space, as well as prospecting for natural resources. In addition, commercial communications satellites and defense technologies are being delivered to space.

There are various international trade implications for businesses that are involved in developing and supplying space related products, services and technologies. U.S. export controls and license requirements under the U.S. Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) and the International Traffic in Arms (ITAR) regulations need to be understood and complied with for transactions that cause the defined controlled goods, services and technologies to leave the country physically, digitally or even if offered for visual inspection abroad (i.e. on a laptop, USB memory stick or a smart phone by a U.S. person travelling overseas).

Generally speaking, BIS export controls and license requirements apply to "dual-use and ITAR covers "defense" items or technologies that are "exported". Space related technologies and products tend to be subject to strict U.S. export controls and licensing requirements.

In addition, "deemed exports" are subject to many of the same BIS and ITAR export restrictions and/or license requirements even if the controlled technologies never leave the U.S.A. For example, a firm that is involved in developing technologies for space flight that hires non-U.S. persons (generally non-U.S. Citizens or legal residents) may need to secure an export license before sharing the controlled product or technology with the non-U.S. person. For example, engineering drawings for a BIS or ITAR controlled product or technology that are viewed by a non-US person would potentially need an export license even if the person they were released to is seeing the information on his work computer screen because he or she was asked to do a specific task.

There are already many opportunities for Mississippi based entrepreneurs and small and medium sized businesses to participate in the space economy by supplying, goods, services and technologies to the U.S. government, friendly foreign governments and the private sector, in the U.S.A and overseas. Doing so requires having a firm grasp of U.S. export controls and licensing requirements and complying with them.

For further information, please contact MS-SBDC Manager of International Trade Anthony Cambas at (662) 832-3771 or anthony@mississippisbdc.org.