

RESOLUTION OF THE  
COUNCIL OF INSTITUTIONS OF THE  
UNIVERSITIES SPACE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

We being the members of the Council of Institutions ("Council") of the Universities Space Research Association ("USRA"), a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the District of Columbia, hereby adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, USRA is an association of 104 universities, including 9 international universities, chartered, "To constitute an entity in and by means of which universities and other research organizations may cooperate with one another, with the Government of the United States, and with other organizations toward the development of knowledge associated with space science and technology;" and

WHEREAS, future space research and exploration will be enhanced by the substantial and growing technological capabilities of nations other than the United States, and whereas for economic, scientific, and foreign policy reasons, it is vital that barriers to international collaborations by U.S. universities be reduced; and

WHEREAS the 2007 National Academy of Science report found that costs and delays imposed by ITAR processing requirements, are making the United States universities less desirable as partners to its foreign collaborators; and

WHEREAS the 2008 study of the Center for Strategic and International Studies concluded that the U.S. must reassess the application of the ITAR as it is applied to space because these requirements are harming our domestic technological and manufacturing base; and

WHEREAS the 2009 National Research Council (NRC) study concluded that the national security controls that regulate access to and export of science, and technology are broken and that many of these controls undermine our national and homeland security and stifle American engagement in the global economy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Government should apply the basic research exclusion in the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) to universities and university researchers as originally intended and further, should modify the basic research exclusion so that it extends to U.S. aerospace firms, Federal laboratories, and non-profit organizations when they are interacting with universities in pursuit of fundamental space research; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the U.S. Government should undertake an interagency review of export controls as a high priority, that the National Security Council should lead this review with support from the Office of Science and Technology Policy and/or a future National Space Council, and that it should include a top-to-bottom scrubbing of the items on the U.S. Munitions List (USML) and the Commerce Control List (CCL); and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the U.S. Government should identify needed legislative and administrative actions that will revise the current export regime to more effectively protect sensitive technology and minimize adverse effects on other important areas and that this legislation should put the responsibility back in the Executive Branch for determining articles and services to be included on export control lists.

In Witness Whereof, the members of the Council have adopted this resolution at their meeting of March 26, 2009.

Universities Space Research Association



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Edward J. Groth  
Chair, Council of Institutions