

# Republic of Korea / Asia-Oceania

The Republic of Korea has significantly advanced its space sector, leading to the establishment of the Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA) in 2024. Korea's space R&D began in the early 1990s with the founding of the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) in 1989 and the launch of Wooribyeol-1 in 1992. Over the past three decades, Korea has achieved notable milestones, such as the KPLD's entry into lunar orbit in 2022 and the successful launches of the Nuri-ho rocket, underscoring the need for a unified space policy and governance framework. Consequently, KASA was established on May 27, 2024, consolidating space-related activities that were previously spread across various ministries.

As Korea's national aerospace control tower, KASA is responsible for policy design and coordination, mission and R&D project planning, international cooperation, and industry promotion. It also serves as the secretariat for the National Space Committee, chaired by the President of Korea. KASA's organizational structure is divided into two main groups: the Policy & Support Group under the Vice Administrator and the Mission Group under the Vice Administrator of Mission Directorates, focusing on four key sectors: Space Transport, Satellites, Space Exploration, and Aeronautics. There are two affiliated centers: the National Satellite Operation Center and the Space Weather Center. Additionally, two major research institutes, KARI and the Korea Astronomy & Space Science Institute (KASI), are

incorporated under KASA's umbrella. Within KASA, there are several divisions and centers dedicated to satellite-related activities, including the Division of International Affairs, Aerospace Service, Data & Application Division, Satellite Program Department, and the National Satellite Operations Center.

The Korean government has emphasized satellite information utilization through a series of five-year mid-term plans known as the Comprehensive Plan for the Utilization of Satellite Information. The first two plans (2014-2018, 2019-2023) focused on establishing a robust infrastructure for state-managed satellite data acquisition and utilization.

With the rise of private companies seeking satellite data to develop data-driven solutions, KASA is shifting towards enhancing its systems to support private sector involvement. The third plan, set to be adopted in the second half of 2024, will focus on promoting private-led satellite data utilization. A major task of the new plan is to strengthen data networks through domestic and international cooperation and facilitate the use of data to address global common issues.

KASA, alongside the National Satellite Information Utilization Support Center managed by KARI, will actively participate in the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) and AOGEO initiatives. By enhancing the use of satellite data, we aim to support earth observation activities such as environmental monitoring, disaster management, and sustainable development efforts in the region.