



Nanosatellites Advisory Committee
Wednesday, June 17, 2015 10:00 a.m.
House Room D, General Assembly Building

Members: Delegate Ken Plum (chair), Delegate Terry Austin, Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn, Senator Mamie Locke, Senator John Watkins

Delegate Plum, chair of the Nanosatellites Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order.

Mary Sandy, Director of the Virginia Space Grant Consortium, presented a proposal for a small satellites initiative in the Commonwealth. A copy of the proposal is available on the JCOTS website. The initiative would be led by the Space Grant Consortium, and would include universities, NASA, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport, industry, and government representatives. The initiative would also present the potential to collaborate with other organizations outside of Virginia, such as Kentucky Space. The estimated budget for the initiative would be \$4 million annually in base funding from the Commonwealth, which would be used to leverage additional funds through partnerships.

Industry and university representatives were generally supportive of the proposals, as a means to open up research and educational opportunities. However, legislative members said that the committee would need to drill down into the budget request, and would need to focus in on the return on investment for the Commonwealth. If the Commonwealth were to invest that kind of money, there would need to be a benefit to the taxpayer beyond general education. Further questions were raised as to how small satellites would fit into the broader aerospace industry, and whether small satellites alone warranted separate focus from promotion of aerospace generally. Because small satellites are relatively new, some industry representatives said that it is not yet clear what the overall impact or economic multiplier will be.

Ms. Sandy was asked to provide more information at the next meeting about the potential economic impact of small satellites and initiatives in other states.