

IAF SPACE POWER SYMPOSIUM (C3)
Solar Power Satellite (1)

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ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SPACE SOLAR POWER

Abstract

A public commitment is critical if not essential to the successful adoption of grid-level space-based solar power. But what would a national strategy for space solar power look like? The Beyond Earth Institute, with the support and guidance of John Mankins, drafted an executive directive that could be issued by the U.S. Office of the President. The strategy represents a clear road map including foundational research, development of capabilities, resolution of spectrum management issues, a commitment to a 1kW demonstration program demonstration projects, a project to demonstrate SSP for lunar operations, and a goal of building an operational SSP scalable to 1GW. This paper will discuss the rationale for each provision of the draft directive, the mechanisms by which the draft may be championed by the White House, particularly via the National Space Council under the chairmanship of Vice President Kamala Harris. The paper will explore other political pathways for potential adoption, as well as the political realities that are difficult to overcome.