



Universities Space Research Association

About USRA

Formed in 1969, under the auspices of the National Academies of Science, Universities Space Research Association is an independent nonprofit organization that offers an avenue for government and industry to engage the expertise of the academic community with USRA's technical leadership, innovative R&D, operational excellence, management of premier facilities, and education programs to advance space and aeronautics-related sciences and exploration.

Approach & Organization

Key to USRA's capabilities is the role of universities. In 2023 USRA scientists were involved in 1,400 research collaborations at 343 organizations, including 655 research engagements with 145 universities. USRA also increased collaborations with Minority Serving Institutions by 29 percent. Today, USRA is an association of 117 Universities.

Our Mission

- Advance the space- and aeronautics-related sciences and exploration through innovative research, technology, and education program
- Promote space and aeronautics policy
- Develop and operate premier facilities and programs by involving universities, governments, and the private sector for the benefit of humanity

Our Values

- Passion—for science, technology, and education
- Partnerships—with universities, governments, and the private sector
- Professionalism—through excellence, accountability, and respect for others

Core Competencies

- Aeronautical, Data and Computational Sciences
- Quantum Information Science
- Autonomous Systems, AI/ML
- Earth Sciences, Climate
- Space Nuclear Power and Propulsion
- Low Gravity Sciences
- Lunar and Planetary Science
- Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Materials Science
- Facility Management and Operations
- Education and STEM Workforce Development

○ Mountain View, CA

RIACS

Research Institute for Advanced Computer Science

NAMS

NASA Academic Mission Services

SOFIA

Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy

○ Cleveland, OH

GEARS

Glenn Research and Engineering Support

CLD

Commercial Low Earth Orbit Destinations

○ Greenbelt, MD

PHaSER

Partnership for Heliophysics and Space Environment Research

○ Idaho Falls, ID

CSNR

Center for Space Nuclear Research

○ Houston, TX

LPI

Lunar and Planetary Institute

AFRL Programs

U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory Scholars
U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory Scholars Professionals
University Consortium Research Opportunity

○ Huntsville, AL

STI

Science and Technology Institute

☆ Washington, D.C.

USRA Headquarters

EfSI

Earth from Space Institute