



Written by [Veronika Kyrylenko](#) on August 28, 2026

Data Centers in Space: NASA Backs Big Tech's Orbital AI Push

America's data center backlash may have produced an irresistible solution for the government and tech tycoons pushing the buildout.

If communities do not want the giant facilities next door, put them in space, beyond local opposition, beyond public scrutiny and, conveniently, beyond the need to [guard them](#) from angry neighbors on the ground.

NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman made that pitch this week. The idea sounds futuristic. It is also remarkably convenient for an industry already racing to build the future.



ipopba/iStock/Getty Images Plus

From the Backyard to Orbit

[The Hill](#) quoted Isaacman in a Wednesday report:

"Let's take our data centers, put them in Earth orbit, take advantage of that free fusion reactor that's out there for us and use that to ensure we do win the ... space race for sure, but the AI race, too," Isaacman said in an interview with Nexstar DC's Vinay Simot.

He added that the move would "have immense benefits," as companies could leverage solar energy — the "free fusion reactor" — to power data centers.

The argument is simple. Artificial intelligence needs enormous amounts of electricity. Data centers also devour land, water, transmission lines, and cooling infrastructure. Those demands have triggered backlash in communities facing higher power costs, new utility construction, and giant industrial projects.

Putting data centers in space appears to solve at least part of the political problem. Solar panels can generate power without competing with local grids. The hardware does not consume suburban land. Neighbors cannot organize against a server farm hundreds of miles above them.

Isaacman has made the argument before.

Earlier this month, he told the [New York Post](#)'s "Pod Force One,"

"Elon [Musk] and others in the industry are like let's take the data centers that no one likes in your backyard — it seems like there's a lot of consensus on that — and put them into space where they won't bother anyone," the NASA chief noted.



Written by [Veronika Kyrylenko](#) on August 28, 2026

Isaacman has not announced a NASA orbital data center program. But the industry did not wait for NASA.

Tech Bros Are Already There

SpaceX filed an application with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in January for an orbital data center system of up to one million satellites.

[The FCC accepted](#) the filing in February. SpaceX described the proposed network as a system with “unprecedented computing capacity” for advanced AI. The company called it the “first step towards becoming a Kardashev II-level civilization,” a reference to a hypothetical civilization capable of harnessing the energy of its star.

The concept also became central to SpaceX’s pitch before its record June IPO. Company executives [told investors](#) they were targeting initial orbital AI computing demonstrations by late 2027.

SpaceX has since provided details about its first AI satellite architecture. The company has [discussed](#) satellites capable of roughly 150 kilowatts of peak power and 120 kilowatts of sustained computing.

SpaceX is not alone.

Google announced [Project Suncatcher](#) in November 2025. It plans to test solar-powered satellites carrying its Tensor Processing Unit chips. Google says it expects to launch two prototype satellites by early 2027.

Jeff Bezos’ Blue Origin has [asked the FCC](#) for permission to deploy 51,600 satellites under Project Sunrise. The company explicitly pitched space computing as a way to reduce pressure on American communities, electrical grids, and water resources.

[Starcloud](#) has gone further than a paper proposal. The startup put an Nvidia H100 GPU into orbit in November 2025. It now wants to build a much larger orbital computing network.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) [reported](#) in April that the FCC had already received three applications since January for large satellite constellations designed as data centers.

NASA’s enthusiasm, then, looks less like a novel idea than an endorsement of projects already being pushed by tech titans with deep ties to Washington.

NASA, SpaceX and Trump

Isaacman is hardly a detached observer of the nominally commercial space industry he now oversees.

Before taking over NASA, he flew to orbit twice with SpaceX. He commanded [Inspiration4](#) in 2021 and [Polaris Dawn](#) in 2024. He also bankrolled the Polaris program, a series of SpaceX missions designed to culminate in the first human flight aboard SpaceX’s super-heavy Starship launch vehicle.

The political connection runs deeper.

Trump originally picked Isaacman to lead NASA on Musk’s recommendation, per [Reuters](#) and [Investing.com](#).

Musk himself was also far more than an ordinary Trump supporter.

Federal Election Commission (FEC) filings aggregated by Reuters showed that he spent more than [\\$259 million](#) helping elect Trump in 2024, making him one of the largest political donors in modern American history.



Written by [Veronika Kyrylenko](#) on August 28, 2026

Isaacman also became part of the political theater surrounding the ruptured Trump-Musk “bromance” in May 2025. Trump withdrew his first NASA nomination shortly after [Musk left the administration](#), a move [Reuters described](#) as a direct snub to Musk.

Nonetheless, Trump renominated Isaacman in November.

And the dramatic feud did nothing to disrupt the administration’s broader embrace of “commercial” space.

Public Favor, Private Gain

Trump’s December 2025 executive order on “[American Space Superiority](#)” called on the United States to “unleash commercial development” in space. More significantly, it ordered NASA to overhaul its acquisition process with a “first preference for commercial solutions.”

That mandate favors an industry SpaceX already dominates. In April 2025, SpaceX [received](#) a Space Force launch contract valued at nearly \$5.9 billion, under which it is expected to receive 28 national-security missions through fiscal 2029, about 60 percent of the program’s launches.

And the connections now extend to Trump’s own portfolio.

A financial disclosure released this month showed that Trump’s investment portfolio [purchased up to \\$50,000](#) in SpaceX shares on June 23, days after the company’s record IPO.

Musk is also one of the biggest recipients of the [unconstitutional](#) corporate welfare. In July 2025, Trump himself [complained](#),

Elon may get more subsidy than any human being in history, by far, and without subsidies, Elon would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa. No more Rocket launches, Satellites, or Electric Car Production, and our Country would save a FORTUNE.

Over the two decades ending in February 2025, Musk’s business empire received at least \$38 billion in government contracts, loans, subsidies and tax credits, according to a [Washington Post](#) analysis.

But the sharp rhetoric did not alter Washington’s reliance on SpaceX.

Now, NASA is promoting essentially the same vision being advanced by the company that launched its administrator into space, whose founder spent hundreds of millions helping elect Trump, whose shares now sit in Trump’s investment portfolio, and which stands to benefit from an administration policy explicitly directing NASA toward commercial space solutions.

NASA the Spy

There is another development worth watching: NASA’s changing national-security status.

In August 2025, Trump signed Executive Order 14343. For purposes of federal labor law, the order [placed NASA](#) among agencies deemed to have “as a primary function intelligence, counterintelligence, investigative, or national security work.”

The designation underscores how rapidly the lines between civilian space exploration, Big Tech infrastructure, and “national security” are disappearing.

An orbital computing network could serve nominally commercial AI. It could also process satellite



Written by [Veronika Kyrylenko](#) on August 28, 2026

imagery, communications, and other sensitive data in space, without first sending all of the raw information back to Earth. The GAO specifically identified faster processing of data collected in space as one potential advantage.

That raises a darker question.

[Government-backed](#) AI infrastructure is also becoming the physical backbone for increasingly integrated systems involving digital identity, finance, communications, movement, and access to services. Add orbital computing, satellite surveillance, and “national-security” functions to that architecture, and the same infrastructure sold as essential to beating China could help build something far more consequential: a [planet-wide prison](#) in which the state and a handful of powerful tech oligarchs can watch, identify, track, and ultimately control people on an unprecedented scale.



Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative,
non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



Subscribe

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.