



## **Asha Balakrishnan Appointed to the Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES)**

**ALEXANDRIA, VA (March 2021)**—Asha Balakrishnan, a research staff member at IDA, will serve on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES) for the next two years.

Operating as a federal advisory committee, ACCRES advises NOAA’s Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs Office, which issues licenses to the commercial sector for remote sensing needs. ACCRES makes recommendations that help shape new rulemaking or on matters that could affect commercial sensing.

“Asha’s space policy expertise makes her well suited to serve in this advisory role to address challenges facing NOAA,” says Kristen Kulinowski, Director of Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI), a Federally Funded Research and Development Center operated by IDA. “She brings a unique perspective in ensuring the evaluation processes are objective, while taking all viewpoints into account.”

“STPI regularly conducts analysis of civil and commercial space policy and has a solid understanding of the space policy issues across the government and private sector,” says Balakrishnan, who conducts research within STPI. “I’m excited to be part of a committee that provides independent advice to NOAA on how to support advances in commercial remote sensing while considering the regulatory role of Commercial Remote Sensing Regulatory Affairs (CRSRA).”

Balakrishnan says she looks forward to learning more about the challenges and nuances that are brought on by rulemaking, recommending new approaches, and getting to know the other members.

“They are an illustrious group of space policy experts across all sectors of the space community, government, industry, academic, and non-profit,” she says. “This is a terrific place to share ideas and provide advice on how NOAA can address these challenges.”

Balakrishnan earned her bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign in 1997. She earned her master’s degree in 1999 and doctoral degree in 2007, both in mechanical engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the American Evaluation Association, and the Society of Women Engineers.

IDA is a nonprofit corporation that operates three Federally Funded Research and Development Centers in the public interest. IDA answers the most challenging U.S. security and science policy questions with objective analysis leveraging extraordinary scientific, technical, and analytic expertise.

