

Jared Isaacman speaks out, and it's clear that NASA lost a visionary leader

"There's enough hardware now to fly a couple of missions and make sure you beat China back to the Moon," he said. "But you can't be stuck on this forever. This is literally the equivalency, by the way, of taking P-51 Mustangs [a fighter aircraft] from World War II and using them in Desert Storm, because we got to keep the plants open. And that obviously makes no logical sense whatsoever."

On his de-nomination

Isaacman said he is, politically, a moderate, although he leans right. He supports Trump's desire to cut alleged waste and fraud from the US government, and that is what he intended to do at NASA. He also did not blame Trump for his departure, saying that a president makes a thousand decisions a day, often with a few seconds of information.

He also said he enjoyed the Senate confirmation process, which allowed him to candidly discuss his positions on NASA with individual US senators.

As for why he was removed, Isaacman said the following: "I had a pretty good idea, I don't think the timing was much of a coincidence," he said. "Obviously, there was more than one departure that was covered on that day."

The phone call to Isaacman saying his nomination was being pulled came the same day that SpaceX founder Elon Musk left his position as a special advisor to the president. Musk had

been supportive of Isaacman's nomination. However, in his time running the Department of Government Efficiency, Musk had made enemies within the US government.

"There were some people who had some axes to grind, and I was a good, visible target," Isaacman said. "I want to be overwhelmingly clear: I don't fault the president."

Although Isaacman did not name anyone, multiple sources have told Ars that it was Sergio Gor, an official in the White House Presidential Personnel Office, who moved against Isaacman after Musk left the White House. Gor was irked by Musk's failure to consult him and other personnel officials on some decisions.

As a result of what appears to be political pettiness, NASA lost a visionary leader who had the potential to lead the space agency into the middle of the 21st century at a time when an aging agency needs to modernize. If you listen to him, losing that potential in such a way is downright painful. It's a damn shame.

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