

NASA Range Safety Program 2006 Annual Report

SPECIAL INTEREST ITEMS SPACE FLORIDA

The nation is seeing the birth and early growth of a new space tourism industry and NASA's Vision for Space Exploration has initiated the Constellation and Commercial Orbital Transportation Services programs. These events bring new opportunities and challenges to Florida's space community.

To address these opportunities, a commission was formed to study and make recommendations concerning Florida's role in the future of commercial launches. The *Governor's Commission on the Future of Space and Aeronautics in Florida* final report highlighted two customer service areas that are critical to helping make the Eastern Range more "user friendly." The areas are:

- Customer Service Process, including the Universal Documentation process
- Flight Safety Approval Process

Another result of the Commission's report was a restructuring of Florida's space-related organizations into one organization called Space Florida (<http://www.spaceflorida.gov>).

To correct the customer service concerns cited above, a contract was signed in August 2006 between Florida Space Authority (now Space Florida) and a contractor team to provide consulting services and flight safety approval assistance to new commercial launch customers. One of the program elements is to establish a training program to help new customers understand the Eastern Range flight safety approval process, the Universal Documentation System, and range requirements.

Training Program

NASA's Kennedy Space Center, the 45th Space Wing Range Safety Office, and the Federal Administration Association, Office of the Associate Administrator for Space Transportation are developing training programs to increase the effectiveness of their employees and to aid their government customers in navigating through range safety requirements.

In coordination with the Air Force, Kennedy Space Center, and the Federal Aviation Administration, the Space Florida contractors will develop a range safety training program tailored specifically for commercial launch customers. Design documents are already complete and new courses should be available in early 2007.

The contractors are currently providing valuable consulting services to new and potential Space Florida customers, including the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services contractors whose logos are shown to the right.

Flight Safety System

Another exciting element of the Space Florida program is the development of alternate, or pre-approved, flight safety systems. The contractor will identify available flight safety system components and investigate future flight safety system options and concepts for

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government furnished or government approved flight safety systems.

The contractor will develop several alternative concepts for a feasible system, dubbed *universal flight safety system*, along with minimum performance requirements. Options will include such concepts as government furnished, government approved, one size fits all, launch vehicle class unique systems, and entire integrated systems versus subsystem/component concepts. The contractor will coordinate preliminary concepts with Space Florida, the 45th Space Wing Range Safety Office, and NASA and, as a team, select final concepts to pursue.