



Aerospace Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
July 19, 2007 1:00 pm
Lincoln Ballroom, Doubletree Hotel, Crystal City

• **Call to order, Introduction:**

Delegate Ken Plum called the meeting to order.

- **Industry Presentations:** Following the presentations the advisory committee will have the opportunity to engage the representatives in a question and answer session.

**Lawrence Williams, Vice President, International and Government Affairs,
Space Explorations Technologies**

Mr. Williams presented to the advisory committee on current developments at Space Explorations Technologies. Mr. Williams' presentation is available on the JCOTS website. The advisory committee members were interested in hearing if SpaceX had any plans to launch from Wallop's Island. Mr. Williams responded that although there are no current plans to launch from Wallop's there may be potential in the future. SpaceX is currently looking to launch from Florida, which has offered SpaceX a dedicated launch pad. Mr. Williams informed the committee that SpaceX would need a new launch pad at Wallop's capable of handling their Falcon 9 rocket before they consider a launch from Wallops.

David Gump, President, Transformational Space Corporation

Mr. Gump presented to the advisory committee on current developments at Transformational Space Corporation. Mr. Gump's presentation is available on the JCOTS website. A major barrier preventing t/Space from launching at Wallops is runway length. Unlike SpaceX, t/Space is developing a horizontal launch model that would require 10,000-12,000 feet of runway. Currently, the runway at Wallops extends to approximately 9,000 feet. Other than the runway length, Mr. Gump stated that a redistribution of the COTS funding to t/Space would be the biggest step towards his company launching at Wallops.

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Delegate Cosgrove identified the possibility of using Langley's runway but members of the advisory committee cautioned that there may be some conflicts with a space launch from Langley. Members of the advisory committee made initial guesses that it would take \$5,000,000 to extend the runway at Wallops and work could be permitted using the spaceports existing environmental assessment.

Darcie Durham, Government Relations, Orbital Sciences

Ms. Durham presented to the advisory committee on current developments at Orbital Sciences. Ms. Durham's presentation is available on the JCOTS website. Ms. Durham opened by stating that all launches over the past seven years have been US government contacts. The vast majority of commercial launches take place outside the US where costs are generally lower. Ms. Durham stated that Orbital could launch its Minotaur 4 from Wallop's but do so would require a taller tower.

- **Open Discussion:** This is an opportunity for members of the advisory committee to engage in an open discussion to develop potential recommendations.

Staff Attorney Patrick Cushing introduced a draft of legislation that would provide an income tax credit to corporations offering passenger tickets on a suborbital or orbital flight launched in Virginia. The advisory committee thought this might provide good publicity for the state.

There was some discussion on the feasibility of establishing a matching fund program for private companies to apply for improvement projects at the MARS. Billie Reed indicated that there is space for one new launch pad and potential to refurbish an older launch pad.

The advisory committee also discussed the need to publicize launches from Wallops and generally include MARS in all discussions related to transportation. Conceptually, point-to-point suborbital travel originating from Wallops/MARS could become an important transportation asset to the Commonwealth.

- **Public comment:** Designated time reserved for members of the public to express their views relating to the Aerospace Advisory Committee and Aerospace policy in the Commonwealth.

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Dr. Burton Lee provided public comment. Dr. Lee introduced the idea of an angel investment tax credit, similar to legislation recently passed in New Mexico. Dr. Lee also volunteered to present at the next meeting on Florida's recent reorganization of three state groups into what is now called Space Florida.

- **Adjournment.**