November 24, 2006

IAA Commission V
Study Proposal

LAUNCH REGULATIONS AND POLICIES: PERSPECTIVES FOR THE 21st CENTURY

Overall Goal

The study will analyze the unilateral as well as multilateral regulations and policies concerning the launching of objects in Outer Space, investigate new trends and aspects in the 21st century and make proposals/recommendations for policy initiatives concerned with incentives and procedures for providing a rational and smooth operating international commercial environment for launch vehicles, while recognizing other aspects of launch policy such as those reflecting national security.

Intermediate Goals

1. The study group would address the following issues regarding launch policies and regulations:
    a. Economic and commercial space activities including the
        i. Impact on launcher markets and competition, and
        ii. Entrepreneurial space activities
    b. Environmental impacts including space debris
    c. Security and defense aspects
2. The history of the industry and the impact of major changes in launch policies.
3. In addition, the group would conduct an analysis, comparison and evaluation of these launch policies and regulations worldwide leading to,

Final Goal:

To analyze the trends in launch policies and regulations, identifying areas in which those policies and regulations have created disincentives for efficiencies in the industry, distorted market signals to firms in competition for launch businesses, or otherwise affected the availability, profitability, or production of launch vehicles. Of course, policies that have created positive influences on the industry will also be highlighted. Based upon this analysis, suggestions and recommendations will be presented.

Methodology
- Contributions (written) from experts in each nation
- Interviews with officials where necessary
- Research activities
- Meetings/working sessions at IAA meetings

- Draft intermediate papers at IAC meetings w/ feedback

Short Discussion:

This study proposal is aimed specifically at the issues of access to space. It will first focus on existing written regulations for launch vehicles in various nations that either have a launch industry and/or plan to have spaceports or launching facilities. The official policies underlying these regulations are equally important. However, the study could easily become unbounded and unfocused if it is extended to all space policies, including those affecting space applications or other areas of government supervision that may also have a significant effect on the launch industry but which are aimed at either other space issues or broader economic issues (e.g. anti-trust policy). In addition, written policies and regulations are only the beginning, as national budgets each year can also be considered policy documents.

Therefore, I am proposing that this study be fairly narrow, initially focused on an analysis of specific regulations in different nations that directly involve launch vehicles and spaceports. That alone, is a large task. From there, it will be useful to go backwards to and analysis of the policies that underlie those regulations. And finally, to go forwards and analyze the impact of those regulations on the worldwide launch "landscape" with the final product being a set of findings and recommendations on incentives/disincentives as discussed above in the "Goals" section.

I hope this clarifies my thinking on how to organize this effort to:

1. Focus the study so that it can have reasonable boundaries and make reasonable recommendations,
2. Become a very useful resource for international comparisons of launch policy and regulations, and
3. Help to stimulate nations to consider actions leading toward more rational, efficient, and eventually less expensive launch activities.

Chair: Henry Hertzfeld, Co-Chair: Corinne Jorgenson

Secretary/Rapporteur
TBD (Mathias Spude?)

Members/Contributors

- US
- Russia
- Europe
    - ESA
    - EC
    - Individual Nations (e.g. France, Germany, Italy, Spain, etc.)
- Brazil
- India

- China
- Japan
- Ukraine
- Israel
- Australia
- Others

Time Line
Start: April 2007
End: March 2010
Final presentation: October 2010

Final Product
Publishable document

Target Community
Worldwide space industry, industry that uses space based applications, and space faring nations