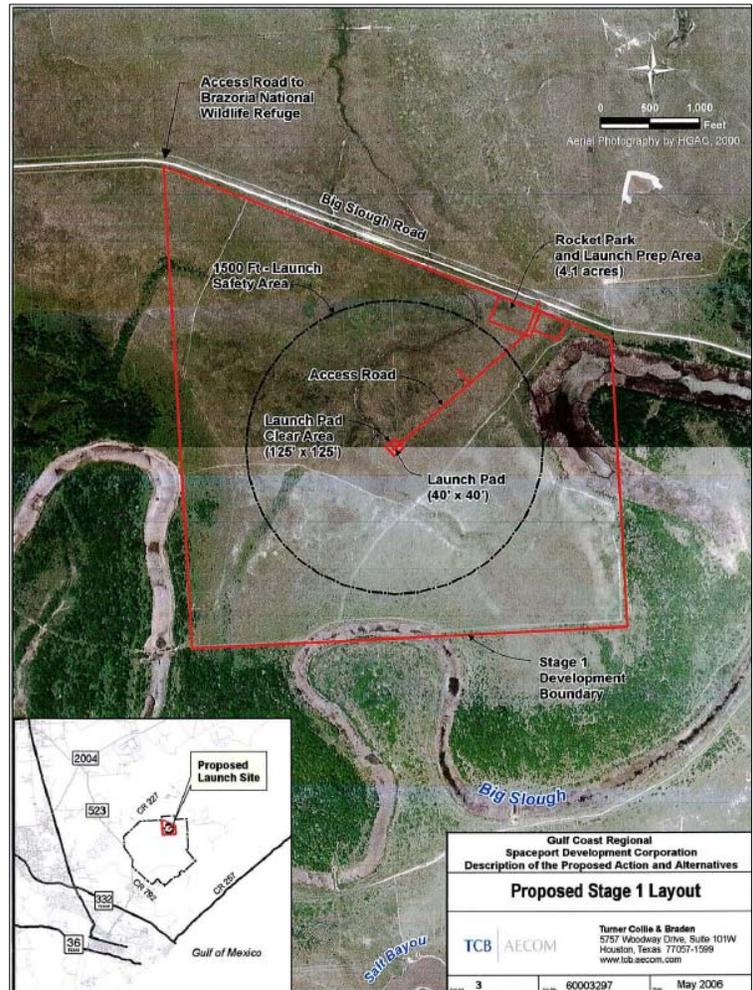


# PROPOSED ACTION

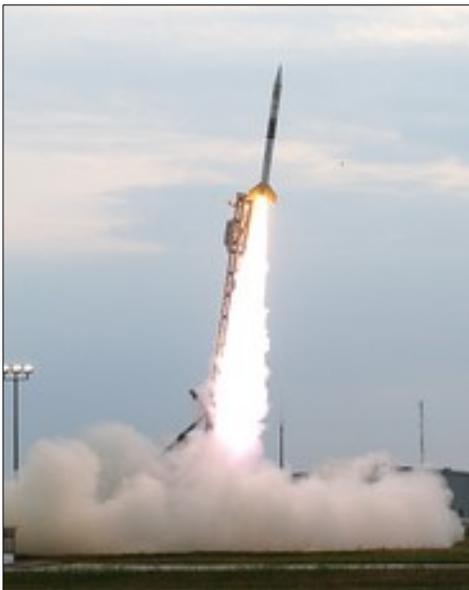
The proposed action is for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to issue a launch site operator license to the Gulf Coast Regional Spaceport Development Corporation (GCRSDC) to support the launches and landings of suborbital rockets. The GCRSDC has indicated that its preferred location for the proposed commercial launch site would be in Brazoria County, north of Big Slough and southeast of County Road 227 (see right). As part of the proposed action, the GCRSDC proposes to construct a 0.5-mile access road and a 40 foot by 40 foot launch pad, as shown on the map.

A launch site operator license would remain in effect for five years from the date of issuance and can be renewed by the licensee. The potential users for this site would be responsible for obtaining a launch license from the FAA for specific missions.

The GCRSDC proposes that the launch site would support up to eight launches per year of suborbital rockets similar to the one pictured below. The duration of the proposed launches would be 15 minutes or less. An example of a representative rocket that would launch from the site is shown below. The proposed site could also be used to conduct amateur launches from the designated 'Rocket Park' area shown on the map. Amateur launches would not require a license or permit from the FAA.



Preferred Location of the Proposed Gulf Coast Regional Spaceport



Representative suborbital rocket  
(Source: <http://www.wff.nasa.gov/>)

## Launch Activities

If the FAA issues a launch site operator license, any major changes in operations or infrastructure would require a license modification, which would require additional environmental review. A launch site operator license does not authorize specific rocket launches, but allows the licensee to offer a site from which launches could occur. Private non-amateur launch operators are required to obtain launch licenses to launch rockets from a licensed site. The issuance of a launch license also would require an environmental review.