A Proposed Spaceport Guide

Presented to the FAA's COMSTAC
Operations Working Group
16 September 2014

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Introduction

- Problem: Current guides and listings are incomplete or attribute-specific (regulations, operations, etc.)
- Need: A one-stop Master Spaceport Guide for industry that:
 - Comprehensively lists and addresses spaceport characteristics, attributes, and capabilities
 - Provides a user friendly rating mechanism to compare/define relevance to make effective safety, operational, and business decisions
 - Is relevant to AST work, works with 14 CFR 420 Spaceport Licensing and Certification Modularity

Spaceport Evaluation Tool

- Spaceport Evaluation Mechanism (SEM)
 - Proposed by ISU Space Studies Program, 2008
 - Establishes a structured approach to spaceport evaluation for commercial space transportation
 - Framework has potential to assist in establishing spaceport standards, highlights key attributes, and can influence spaceport design or selection

Who?

- 41 International Space University Student Professionals
- SEM was developed through literature review and then by ISU research groups
- Based on Spaceports at Mojave and Kourou and then applied to a proposed spaceport in Catalonia
- Criteria were posed in the form of questions
- Certain criteria were Red-Flagged to signify utmost importance

SEM

- Consists of 7 different categories:
 - Business and Commercial
 - Regulatory Issues
 - Operations
 - Infrastructure
 - Location, Community, and Environment
 - Human Spaceflight
 - Cargo and Satellite Operations

Business and Commercial

- An important category for a COMMERCIAL Spaceport
 - Focuses on Revenue, Clients, Market Value, as well as if their location can provide the service wanted by their prospective clients
 - Red-Flagged Criteria:
 - Have basic business plan areas been addressed?
 - Have financiers and multiple revenue streams been identified?

Regulatory Issues

- Provides a run-through of items required by laws and regulations before a launch can occur
- This is a DEAL BREAKER
- Because of the necessity of this, all but one of the five criteria are red flagged.

Operations

- These criteria consist of the day-to-day operations at the spaceport as well as emergency operations
- These criteria help identify how much the spaceport can handle while staying within the safety threshold
- Red-Flagged Criteria:
 - Is there a comprehensive emergency medical response plan?
- Not Included: Orbital and/or Sub-Orbital Operational Capacity

Infrastructure and Location

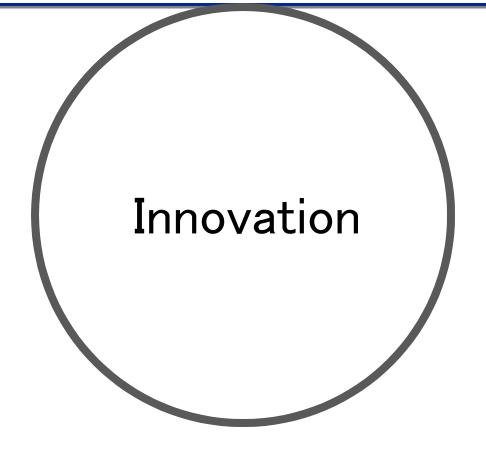
- Infrastructure concentrates on where the space transportation vehicles are stored, assembled, and maintained; failure contingencies and expansion
- Location focuses on passenger comfort, accommodations, public access, and environment
- Red-Flagged Criteria:
 - Does the spaceport launch site support the appropriate space transportation vehicles?
 - Has an environmental impact study been completed in accordance with federal and local law?

Human Spaceflight and Cargo/Satellite Ops

- These two categories are very mission specific so none of the questions are red-flagged
- These criteria range from training and medical management of Spaceflight Participants and Flight Crew to the handling of luggage, mission payloads, and the ability to provide a clean room

Truly not the end

- The SEM is the beginning
- Application to the Llieda, Catalonia, Spain case study provided constructive recommendations and showed the potential for that location
- There is so much that can be expanded as well as existing criteria that can be further developed
- Everything this entails can spur...



Our Next Steps

- COMSTAC OWG Sep 2014: Kick off and SEM Model as baseline spaceport list of attributes and characteristics
- COMSTAC OWG Spring 2015: Present results of master characteristics and attributes list prepared by surveying OWG and U.S. industry stakeholders
- COMSTAC OWG Sep 2015: Draft rating mechanism and interface (print and digital) reviewed