



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FOR COMMERCIAL
SPACE TRANSPORTATION
and
SPACETEC®**

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation (AST) and SpaceTEC® is to establish a continuing partnership between FAA/AST and SpaceTEC® through which to carry out joint activities for fostering interest and participation in space education. Both organizations have a common interest in space education as the primary means of enhancing and increasing America's workforce for space, space transportation, and aerospace careers.

AST derives the legal authority to enter into this agreement under 49 U.S.C., Subtitle IX, ch. 701, section 70103(b), and delegated authority under 49 CFR §1.47 (v) and U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration Notice N 1100.240, Commercial Space Transportation Delegations of Authority. Additionally, AST educational outreach activities fall under the authority of the FAA's Aviation Education (AVED) Outreach Program, which was established under FAA Order 1250.2 on December 28, 2001. The goals for that program include:

- Support of FAA's vision, mission, and values;
- Encouraging students to explore aviation and aerospace career opportunities;
- Promoting the skills and knowledge critical to accomplishing the agency's top priority—safety;
- An emphasis on FAA's responsiveness to national and aviation security challenges;
- Enhancement of the agency's public image through service and community contributions;
- Increasing awareness and understanding of the agency's role in the aviation and aerospace communities; and
- Promoting the role of commercial space transportation in an evolving aerospace traffic system.

The legislative authority for FAA's overall Aviation Education Program from 1970 to the present includes: *The Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970* (Congressional intent); *Public Law 94-353-July 12, 1976 90 STAT.871 To amend the Airport and Airway Development Act of 1970* (legislative authority); and *Public Law 104-264, October 9, 1996, Amendments to Title 49, U.S.C.* (legislative authority).

Background

The primary responsibility of the Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation (AST), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is to license commercial space launch operations and commercial launch sites to protect public health and safety, the safety of government property, and national security and foreign policy interests of the U.S. AST is also responsible for promoting the U.S. commercial space transportation industry and working to enhance its economic viability. A critical issue for the U. S. is the need to train and maintain a skilled and qualified workforce, and as this need grows, the number of students entering the fields of engineering, science, and mathematics is decreasing. Because of this, most areas of the U.S. space community are examining this issue and developing initiatives to help alleviate a future deficiency in the workforce.

To help combat this problem, in 2002 AST developed a course of action – the AST Education Initiative – to reach out to students, teachers and academic administrators with information about the field of commercial space transportation and related career opportunities. AST participates in local school career days, educational conferences and programs, and will also carry out specific programs to reach students of all levels. For additional information see: <http://ast.faa.gov/>.

SpaceTEC[®], the National Aerospace Technical Education Center, was established in 2002 by Community Colleges for Innovative Technology Transfer (CCITT) and funded in part by a National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education grant awarded to Brevard Community College.¹ SpaceTEC[®] was established as an NSF National Center of Excellence to formalize aerospace technical education and develop a skills-based standards program endorsed by the aerospace industry. The mission of SpaceTEC[®] is to create and implement an industry-driven, government-endorsed, technical education process for aerospace technicians to be shared with other educational venues. For more information see: www.spacetec.org.

Scope

One component of the AST Education Initiative is the development of partnerships with other organizations to develop initiatives and enhance outreach to students and educational institutions. FAA/AST and SpaceTEC[®] share a common interest in promoting educational curricula and programs that support future commercial space transportation and aerospace careers.

The intention of this MOU is to develop, to the extent permissible under current laws and regulations, a long-standing partnership between FAA/AST and SpaceTEC[®] to initiate dialogues with industry, government, and educational institutions that result in specific initiatives for reaching out to American students to develop a skilled workforce for the future.

¹ CCITT was formed in 1994 as a national consortium of community colleges “committed to incorporating innovative technological dimensions into existing and future educational programs and services”.

Terms of Agreement

FAA/AST and SpaceTEC® agree to a government/education partnership to promote student learning and space curriculum development in the academic fields that will lead to careers in commercial space transportation and aerospace, in general. Each organization shall name a point of contact responsible for internal coordination of the activities of this agreement. Specific activities will include:

- Work with/interact with institutions that provide aerospace training;
- Development of a year-long plan to support aerospace through education activities, i.e., workshops, seminars, public education fora;
- Cross-utilization of Aerospace Knowledge Bases;
- Joint development of industry needs assessments;
- Implementation of Web site link exchanges; and
- Sharing resources, facilities, and programs of mutual benefit

Nothing in this agreement shall obligate either party to the financial support of the other. Both organizations agree to coordinate for prior approval all public release of information on joint programs and any display or use of identifying titles or logos.

Implementation

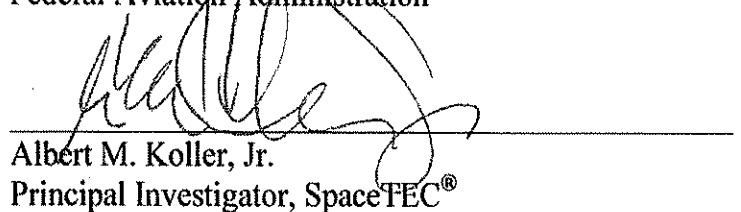
FAA/AST and SpaceTEC® shall use this Agreement as a basis for written implementing procedures to carry out their mutual activities under this partnership arrangement. This agreement shall be effective upon signature by both parties and shall remain in effect for an initial period of one year, renewable annually by mutual written agreement of both parties.

SIGNED:



Patricia G. Smith
Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation,
Federal Aviation Administration

Date: 10-27-04



Albert M. Koller, Jr.
Principal Investigator, SpaceTEC®

Date: OCT. 27, 2004