

**Public Meeting on the Regulatory Approach for Commercial Orbital Human Spaceflight  
May 26, 2011, Starting at 8:30 a.m.  
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Cocoa Beach Oceanfront  
2080 North Atlantic Avenue  
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931**

The FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST) will hold a public meeting on May 26, 2011, to solicit comments and information from the public on the regulatory approach to commercial orbital human spaceflight by the FAA. Specifically, the FAA is planning to propose regulations to protect the health and safety of crew and space flight participants for orbital human spaceflight as soon as circumstances require after December 23, 2012. This initiative is driven by the fact that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is planning to contract with the private sector to transport NASA astronauts to the International Space Station within a few years, and is in the process of developing requirements for its procurement of such services. The FAA's role in these flights is still in work, but the transport of private individuals to Earth orbit, which would require an FAA license, is expected to use the same space transportation systems. This public meeting is intended to aid the FAA in its regulatory effort by receiving early input from the affected community.

The public meeting will allow a large cross-section of the interested public to share views with each other and the FAA, and assist the FAA in redefining the regulatory framework for orbital human spaceflight. The FAA will share its current philosophy, but is most interested in the public's view on a number of regulatory issues such as –

- What the appropriate regulatory scope and breadth should be,
- What the appropriate mix of performance-based, process-based, and prescriptive requirements should be,
- What the appropriate level of safety the FAA should target with its regulations,
- What, if any, should be the medical requirements for space flight participants,
- How best to incorporate government and industry standards into the licensing process,
- How much flight testing should be required, and
- How much control over a spacecraft ground personnel and flight crew should have.

**For Further Information Contact:**

[Randy Repcheck](#)

Deputy Division Manager, Regulations and Analysis Division  
Office of Commercial Space Transportation  
(202) 2678760

[Laura Montgomery](#)

Senior Attorney for Commercial Space Transportation  
FAA Office of the Chief Counsel  
(202) 267-3150

**Background Information**

51 U.S.C. Subtitle V, chapter 509 (Chapter 509) authorizes the Secretary of Transportation and, through delegations, the FAA's Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation, to oversee, license, and regulate both launches and reentries, and the operation of launch and reentry sites when carried out by U.S. citizens or within the United States. 51 U.S.C. 50904, 50905. Chapter 509 directs the FAA to exercise this responsibility consistent with public health and safety, safety of property, and the national security and

foreign policy interests of the United States, and to encourage, facilitate, and promote commercial space launch and reentry by the private sector. 51 U.S.C. 50905, 50903.

The Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004 (CSLAA) assigned the FAA responsibility for regulating commercial human space flight. In December 2006, the FAA issued human space flight regulations in accordance with its authority to protect public health and safety. The CSLAA prohibits the FAA from proposing regulations governing the design or operation of a launch vehicle to protect the health and safety of crew and space flight participants until December 23, 2012, or until a design feature or operating practice has resulted in a serious or fatal injury, or contributed to an event that posed a high risk of causing a death or serious injury, to crew or space flight participants during a licensed or permitted commercial human space flight. 51 U.S.C. 50905(c)(2) and (3). Until such time, the CSLAA only requires that a space flight participant be informed of the risks of taking a ride on a rocket. 51 U.S.C. 50905(b)(5). The FAA may also issue regulations setting reasonable requirements for space flight participants, including medical and training requirements. 51 U.S.C. 50905(b)(6).

Because of recent changes in U.S. policy and the effect they have had on the commercial space transportation industry, The FAA is planning to propose regulations to protect the health and safety of crew and space flight participants for orbital human spaceflight as soon as circumstances require after December 23, 2012. The FAA believes it is important to establish a regulatory foundation as early as possible to provide industry assurance that systems built to support NASA's missions will be compatible with future FAA regulations. The CSLAA mandates that any regulations governing the design or operation of a launch vehicle to protect the health and safety of crew and space flight participants must take into consideration the evolving standards of safety in the commercial space flight industry. 51 U.S.C. 50905(c)(3).

When developed, the proposed regulations are planned to be a starting point for a regulatory regime that will evolve over time as the industry matures. Moreover, in order to facilitate the development of a successful commercial human space transportation industry, the FAA and NASA must develop complementary safety regimes for orbital human space flight. As noted above, NASA has already begun to develop requirements for its procurement of orbital transport services.

At the meeting, any member of the public may present oral statements. A Federal Register Notice regarding this meeting will be available soon.