Federal Aviation Administration Definitions

Presented to: Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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Statutory Authority

• 51 U.S.C. chapter 509 (Ch. 509)
  – Authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to authorize launch and reentry and operation of launch and reentry sites as carried out by U.S. citizens or within the United States.
  – Directs the Secretary to
    • Exercise this responsibility consistent with public health and safety, safety of property, and national security and foreign policy interests of the United States.
    • Encourage, facilitate and promote commercial space launches and reentries by the private sector.
Statutory Mission

ELV

Air Launch

Launch & Reentry Sites

Launch & Reentry

Sea Launch

Human Space Flight
Launch

- **Launch** – to place or try to place a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle and any payload, crew or space flight participant from Earth in a suborbital trajectory; in Earth orbit in outer space; or otherwise in outer space.

- **Launch Vehicle** – a vehicle built to operate in, or place a payload or human beings in, outer space

- **Suborbital Rocket** – a vehicle, rocket propelled in whole or in part, intended for flight on a suborbital trajectory, and the thrust of which is greater than its lift for the majority of the rocket-powered portion of its ascent.
Suborbital RLVs In Development

Blue Origin

XCOR Aerospace

Armadillo Aerospace

Sierra Nevada (SpaceDev)

Virgin Galactic
Reentry

- *Reentry* – to return or attempt to return, purposefully, a reentry vehicle and any payload, crew or space flight participant from Earth orbit or from outer space to Earth place or try to place a launch vehicle or reentry vehicle and any.

- *Reentry Vehicle* – a vehicle designed to return from Earth orbit or outer space to Earth, or a reusable launch vehicle designed to return from Earth orbit or outer space to Earth, substantially intact.
For more information

• 51 U.S.C. ch. 509 and 14 C.F.R. Ch. III

• AST’s Website:
  http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ast/ or http://ast.faa.gov

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