

# Federal Aviation Administration Definitions

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

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**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

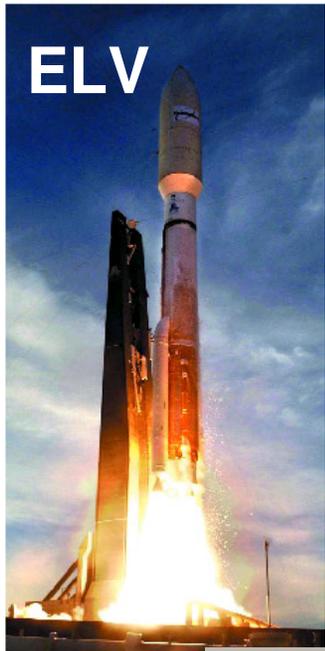


# Statutory Authority

- **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



**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



Armado 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/](http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ast/) or <http://ast.faa.gov>

- **Legal questions:**

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