

Overview of FAA Funded PTP Research Activities



Federal Aviation
Administration



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Background

- **Each year AST allocates ~ 1% of its annual budget to conduct research projects as recommended by industry and AST staff**
- **A proposal was submitted and accepted by AST's Research Senior Steering Committee in FY 2009 to perform a research project focused on suborbital point to point operations**
 - \$25K was allocated for this research effort
- **After several internal deliberations, AST determined that this PTP research effort would support development of policies, and regulations related to suborbital point to point transportation operations in the National Airspace System and beyond**



Background (cont.)

- **In early FY 2010, AST contracted with the Volpe National Transportation System Center to perform an 18 week task to independently conduct suborbital PTP research on its behalf**
- **The John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center is part of the U.S. DOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) and is a fee-for service organization seeking to improve the Nation's transportation system.**
 - In addition to the U.S. DOT, Volpe Center performs work for other federal, state, local, and international agencies and entities.

FAA PTP Tasks

- 1. Identify operational and technical issues that must be addressed for launching and operating high speed PTP systems in or through the NAS and between transcontinental city pairs (e.g. New York to London, LA to Tokyo, Dubai to Sydney, etc.)**
- 2. Prioritize operational and technical issues, ranking them from “most challenging” to “least challenging” and explain rationale for ranking**
- 3. Provide insights for resolving identified issues**

Research Progress and Deliverables

- **Since the beginning of the task, AST has met regularly with Volpe Center to discuss the research project**
 - Draft report delivered to AST on 12/09/09
- **Upcoming deliverables include the following:**
 - A PowerPoint presentation summarizing results of Volpe's analysis and findings
 - A final report documenting Volpe's findings and recommendations

So, what's FAA's role for PTP?

- **We don't pick winners and losers**
- **We seek to support and enable the development of new commercial space transportation markets**
- **We strive to ensure public health and safety**

What current FAA requirements should PTP operators be concerned about?

- **For vehicle operators, there are a few challenges, but non insurmountable**
 - Licensing Requirements for Revenue Generating Flights
 - Safety Review
 - Policy Review
 - Environmental Review
 - Insurance Determinations
 - Permit Requirements for Experimental Flights
 - Safety Review
 - Policy Review
- **For launch site operators, its not as complex, but there are some challenges**

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