



**Image Credit:  
NASA**

**Stakeholders Newsletter  
September, 2015**

## WELCOME

*Dear <<First Name>>,*

Although August brings down time for many on the Hill, we at CSF has been as busy as ever. From the CSLA-update bills and work on new industry standards to our upcoming members meeting, we have been fully occupied and look forward to an equally eventful September.

This is an exciting time for CSF and the commercial space industry. Our September Member's Meeting, to be held on the 22nd and 23rd in Washington D.C., will feature a plethora of speakers from throughout the industry. Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill, major progress is being made toward the passage of the most significant piece of commercial space legislation in over three decades. CSF is working closely with Congress and industry partners to ensure that, whatever the bill's final language may be, it will support the goals and growth of our burgeoning industry.

In the Policy Highlight section of this newsletter, you'll find a write-up on NASA's Flight Opportunities Program and the Suborbital Application and Research Group (SARG).

Ventures such as these have proven crucial for the development of commercially reusable suborbital research and technology platforms.

As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Eric

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## ABOUT US

The [Commercial Spaceflight Federation](#) (CSF) is the industry organization of leading businesses and organizations working to make commercial human spaceflight a reality. Our mission is to promote the development of commercial human spaceflight, pursue ever higher levels of safety, and share best practices and expertise throughout the industry.

Currently, [60 businesses and organizations](#) are CSF members. Executive Members include commercial spaceflight developers, operators, and spaceports. Associate Members include suppliers supporting commercial spaceflight, with recent members including suppliers of mission support services and suppliers of training, medical, and life-support products and services.

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## POLICY HIGHLIGHT

NASA's Flight Opportunities Program provides a wide array of benefits that can be utilized to unleash the benefits of commercially reusable suborbital research and technology platforms. While multiple companies have delved into the world of suborbital spaceflight for tourism, the technology and engineering can also be put towards multiple other efforts and uses.

One of the many benefits of suborbital spaceflight is that it provides much cheaper, as well as more frequent, access to space when compared to more traditional launch platforms. This technology could provide a frequency of launches at ten to one hundred times what has been previously offered, at ten times less the cost.

Access to suborbital platforms for research is also integral in the training process of the future US Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) professionals. The National Academy of Sciences concluded in a study on such platforms that suborbital programs, "benefit both NASA and the nation not only by producing first-rate science, but also by turning out experienced scientists and engineers."

The NASA Flight Opportunities Program has already supported a range of developments and experiments from robotics, to medical devices, to 3D printing and hopes to continue this record. According to Dr. Laguduva "LK" Kubendran of the Space Technology Mission Directorate at NASA, proposals for FY2015 are in review and the Flight Opportunities Program hopes to start the process for FY2016, as soon as the awards for 2015 have been made. He also noted that awards will be dependent on the availability of appropriated funds. NASA is asking for \$15 million to fully fund the Flight Opportunities Program through FY2016.

The Commercial Spaceflight Federation supports such ventures through the Suborbital Application and Research Group (SARG). SARG convenes biannually and holds telecons and webinars at least once every month to continue the research and education of the suborbital applications field. The current chair of SARG is Dr. Steven Collicott, professor in the school of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Previously, SARG was chaired by Alan Stern, the principal investigator for the New Horizons Mission and the Chief Scientist for Moon Express.

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## CSF UPDATES

**July 28:** CSF was named in the NTSB meeting on the Virgin Galactic accident. Two recommendations were given by the NTSB for CSF, including advising commercial space

companies to utilize local emergency response assets and collaborating with the FAA for human factors guidance.

**August 5-7:** Voting took place for the Risk Communication standard. Thank you to Audrey Powers, Jeff Greason, and Mack Reiley for leading the charge.

**August 31:** CSF President Eric Stallmer participated on a panel discussing the International Space Station and its role in enabling exploration, commercialization, science, and economic development while at the AIAA's "Space 2015" Conference in Pasadena, California.

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## RECENT INDUSTRY NEWS

**July 15:** Planet Labs [will acquire BlackBridge](#), which includes RapidEye, a robust imagery database of the planet.

**July 16:** Blue Origin and NanoRacks will be teaming up to [provide suborbital payload services](#) for companies that would be better served by performing research via a suborbital trajectory.

**July 20:** The recent SpaceX mishap cause has been identified as an [upper stage tank strut failure](#).

**July 28:** The NTSB held a meeting to discuss the [findings, probable cause, and recommendations](#) for the Virgin Galactic accident that occurred on Halloween in 2014.

**August 4:** The U.S. Senate [passed a commercial space bill](#) that extends two key provisions of commercial launch law as well as authorizes operations of the ISS beyond 2020. The bill now will have to be reconciled with a similar House bill.

**August 5:** NASA, citing cuts in the commercial crew program, [formally notified Congress](#) that it is issuing a \$490 million extension of an existing contract to purchase rides on Russia's Soyuz.

**August 7:** Orbital ATK, NASA, and the state of Virginia [agreed to split a \\$15 million bill](#) for repairing the launchpad damaged by the Antares launch failure last October.

**August 7:** The FAA's commercial space office [is under scrutiny](#) after the Virgin Galactic NTSB report suggested it may have been under pressure from a heavy workload to

approve applications without sufficient review.

**August 10:** A NASA official said that the agency expects to [award a contract](#) for dedicate launches of cubesats by the end of September, with proposal reviews currently in progress.

**August 12:** Orbital ATK announced that [it has purchased a second Atlas 5 rocket](#) to launch NASA cargo to the ISS and could potentially buy a third.

**August 17:** NASA [ordered](#) two more cargo deliveries to the ISS from Orbital ATK under a 2008 Commercial Resupply Services contract, putting the total of Orbital ATK resupply launches at 10.

**August 19:** Former SpaceX Business Development Senior Vice President Barry Matsumori [joined](#) Virgin Galactic's LauncherOne launch service.

**August 25:** Despite individually passing legislation that would extend key provisions of commercial launch law, the House and Senate have [yet to start efforts](#) to reconcile their separate bills, according to ranking House Science space subcommittee member Rep. Donna Edwards.

**August 26:** Responding to criticism that suggested NASA was giving SpaceX special treatment, NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden [said](#) the agency is conducting an independent review of the company's June launch failure.

**August 27:** The U.S. Air Force [disclosed plans](#) to award SpaceX a roughly \$1 million contract to study mating national security satellites to the company's Falcon 9 rocket.

**August 28:** Emerging space industry companies [have raised over \\$2 billion](#) from investors since 2012, according to a report published by CB Insights on August 28th.

**September 4:** A company that has its roots in a Romanian venture that competed for the Ansari X Prize more than a decade ago [plans to carry out tests](#) of high-altitude drones and suborbital rockets at New Mexico's Spaceport America, spaceport officials announced Sept. 1.

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## RESOURCES

Consult the following resources for the most up-to-date news and information about the

commercial space industry!

### **Commercial Spaceflight Federation**

Visit the [Commercial Spaceflight Federation homepage](#) for the most recent press releases and news stories featuring CSF member organizations.

### **Spaceflight Now Launch Tracker**

Check out the [Spaceflight Now Launch Tracker](#) for the most up-to-date schedule of U.S. government, commercial, and foreign space launches.

### **SpacePolicyOnline.com**

Go to [SpacePolicyOnline](#) for recent news and analysis as well as a comprehensive list of space-related hearings, briefings, and events in the Washington, DC area.

### **NASA Procurement Information**

Consult the [NASA procurement page](#) for a breakdown of NASA spending by state and Congressional district; details include information about SBIR awards, grants, and contracts with universities and businesses.

### **FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST)**

Head to the [FAA AST website](#) to view launch licenses and procedures as well as relevant legislation governing commercial space.



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