

# SpaceLoft: Re-usable Launch Vehicle Familiarization NASA Goddard Space Flight Center September 7, 2011

Jerry Larson, Founder and President



### **Company Overview**

#### **Space Launch Services Provider**

- Founded in 1998
- Incorporated in 2004
- Launch technology development
- Launch operations



#### www.upaerospace.com





### **Contracted Launch Operations Past Performance**

#### Lockheed Martin Space Systems

• 3 launch campaigns for their technology demonstrator

MOOG

- "Black Watch" autonomous rocket plane
- Department of Defense ORS Office
  - 5 payloads flown on SpaceLoft
- **US Air Force** 
  - 2 payloads flown on SpaceLoft
- NASA (New Mexico Space Grant)
  - Summer of Innovation educational program launch





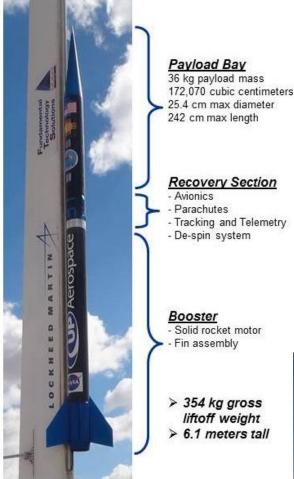


Lockheed Test	Flies Experiment	al Space Plane	1
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## SpaceLoft Launch System

- Single-stage solid rocket motor
- Reusable launch vehicle (88%)
- Unguided / fin-stabilized
- Yo-Yo De-Spin System
- FAA / WSMR approved
- Redundant avionics / ordnance functions
- C-Band Tracking
- S-Band Telemetry
- Payload environment testing and integration in partnership with Schafer Corporation



Booster Solid rocket motor Fin assembly

Pavload Bav

36 kg payload mass

242 cm max length

**Recovery Section** 

- Tracking and Telemetry

- Avionics Parachutes

> 354 kg gross liftoff weight > 6.1 meters tall









SL-3

May 2009



SL-4

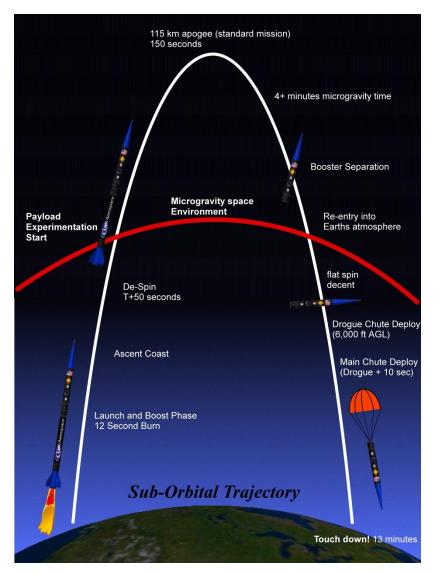
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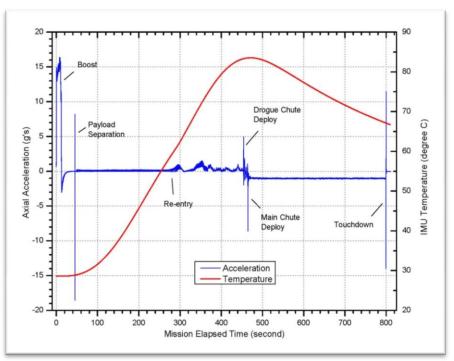
SL-5 May 2011



#### SpaceLoft Sub-Orbital Flight Profile

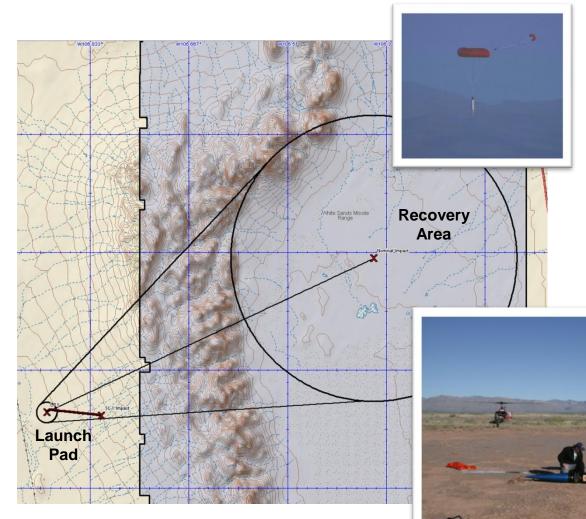


- 95-160 km altitude
- Recovery on White Sands
  Missile Range
- 4+ minutes of microgravity time
- Boost: 16 g's peak acceleration
- Touch down: 10 12 g's





## **Payload Recovery Operations**

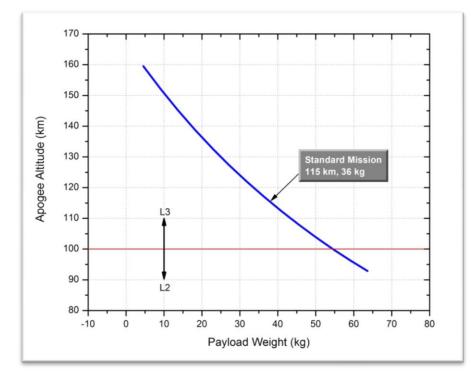


- 25 mile down range aim point
- Parachute on land recovery
- Payload returned to launch site via helicopter 2 hours after launch



## SpaceLoft Performance

- Standard Mission
  - 115 km Standard Mission
  - 36 kg
  - 4+ minutes microgravity
- 25 Cube-Sat Capable





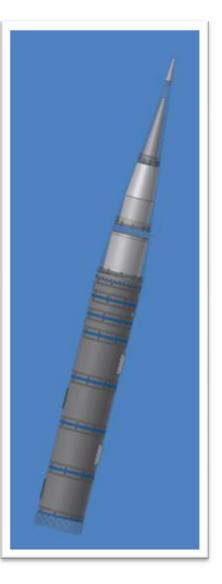


## Modular Payload System

- Payloads loaded into vehicle day before launch (<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hr)
- Different priced module sizes
- Payload Integration independent launch vehicle
- Access to space openings

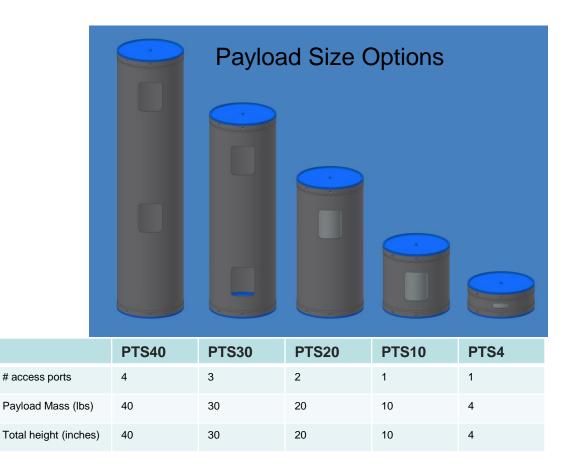
#### Payload Transportation System (PTS)

Patent Pending





#### Modular Payload System Containers





May 20, 2011 launch payload PTS set



## **Payload System Options**

#### Power Module

- Customized power solutions
  - 3.7 to 32 VDC and either regulated or unregulated outputs
  - up to 4 separate voltages to power independent payloads
- Space flown and tested battery systems

#### Command Module

- Up to 4 discrete signals to up to 4 separate payloads
  - payload pre and post separation
  - de-spin system completion
  - microgravity threshold achieved
  - time from liftoff







## Launch Site Facilities



- 10 year lease agreement with <u>Spaceport America</u>
- Dedicated launch site infrastructure
- White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) support options
  - RADAR
  - Recovery
  - Video Tracking
  - C-Band Transponder Testing
    - WSRM Beacon Lab
    - Vertical testing
    - Day of Launch verification



#### Launch Site

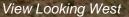
# Spaceport America

Operations Control Center

Payload Processing Facility

- Launch Pad
- Final Assembly Building
- Launcher
- SODAR (Low altitude winds)

Ordnance Storage High Explosives Magazine





### Launch Pad and Final Assembly Facility

- 35'x 15' x 10' Roll-Back Design
- Lighting, heat and air conditioning
- Explosion code electrical
- Static discharge touch pad
- ESD wrist strap grounding
- RF testing side windows





## Launch Control Area

- Onsite power
- Air conditioned
- Computer network
- Wireless internet
- Restrooms
- Helicopter landing site
- Operations Control Center (OCC)
  - 9 Launch Crew stations
  - Launch control communication
  - Winds monitoring station
  - Video
- Payload Processing Facility (PPF)
  - ESD Grounding
  - Payload telemetry monitoring
  - Portable clean room option (ISO Class 3)
  - Launch control comm





## In-Development (SpaceLoft)

#### Attitude Control Pointing

- Reaction wheels system
- 3-axis
- PTS "lite"
  - Lower weight
  - Lower cost reusable system

#### • Alternate flight azimuth missions

- Lower cost
- Doesn't require WSMR support
- GPS based tracking system



#### What Customers Say about SpaceLoft

Dr. Peter Wegner, Director, DoD ORS Office

"The <u>rocket exceeded performance expectations in</u> <u>microgravity</u> and characterized the flight of the rocket from launch to weightless environment in space, reentry and touchdown; a significant step for smaller scale access to space"



"I applaud the launch and payload teams and am pleased that the ORS payload provided yet another demonstration of our enablers of <u>rapid spacecraft build</u>, integration, test and launch."

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