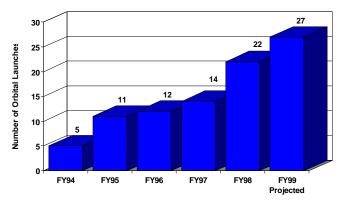


October 22, 1998

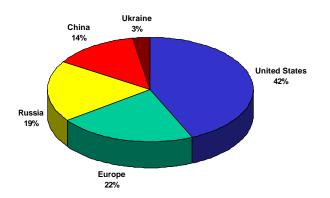
FAA-LICENSED LAUNCHES SET NEW RECORD IN FY 1998

In Fiscal Year 1998, U.S. launch service providers conducted a record 22 FAA-licensed launches, an increase of 57 percent over FY 1997 and more than four times the number of launches conducted five years ago. As many as 27 FAA-licensed launches are scheduled for FY 1999, an increase of 23 percent over FY 1998's record number of launches. Through the end of FY 1998, there were 101 licensed launches since the first was conducted in 1989.



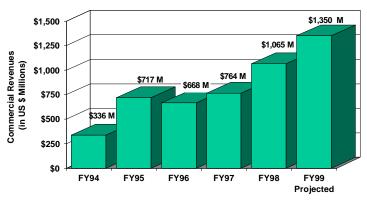
U.S. LEADS WORLD IN COMMERCIAL MARKET

U.S. commercial space launch providers captured 42 percent of the world market for commercial space transportation in FY 1998, more than any other nation. Of the 37 internationally competed launches conducted in FY 1998, U.S. providers conducted 16 (out of 22 FAA-licensed launches); Europe's Arianespace conducted 8; Russian launch providers conducted 7; China's Long March conducted 5 commercial launches; and Ukraine conducted 1 launch of the Zenit rocket which failed. Non-internationally competed launches conducted by U.S. providers and licensed by the FAA included 3 ORBCOMM launches on Pegasus, Lunar Prospector on an Athena 2, and the Geosat Follow-On on a Taurus rocket.



U.S. COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION REVENUES TOP \$1 BILLION

Revenues from FAA-licensed launches climbed above \$1 billion for the first time in FY 1998 reaching \$1.06 billion, an increase of 39 percent over FY97 revenues of \$764 million. Revenues for commercial launches from the United States have increased by more than a factor of three in the last five years, up from \$336 million in FY94. Revenues for FY99 FAA-licensed commercial space launches are projected to be as high as \$1.35 billion.



FAA LAUNCH AND SPACEPORT LICENSING ACTIONS

In FY 1998, the FAA issued nine launch operator's license amendments including four renewals, several amendments for vehicle design changes, and the addition of Delta III to Boeing's existing operator's license. The FAA also issued launch site operator's licenses to the Alaska Aerospace Development Corp. to operate a launch site at Kodiak Island, Alaska, and to the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority to operate at Wallop's Island, Virginia.

FY 1998 FAA-LICENSED LAUNCH VEHICLES

