

New Mexico Office for
Space Commercialization

Briefing to the
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure

Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.
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By
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Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I am Lou Gomez, the Program Manager for the Southwest Regional Spaceport within the New Mexico Office for Space Commercialization.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to brief the Committee on the status of New Mexico's spaceport development efforts.

I will be briefing you on New Mexico's plans and progress.

I also want to thank the FAA, particularly Administrator Marion Blakey and Associate Administrator Patti Smith for their continuing support of our program.

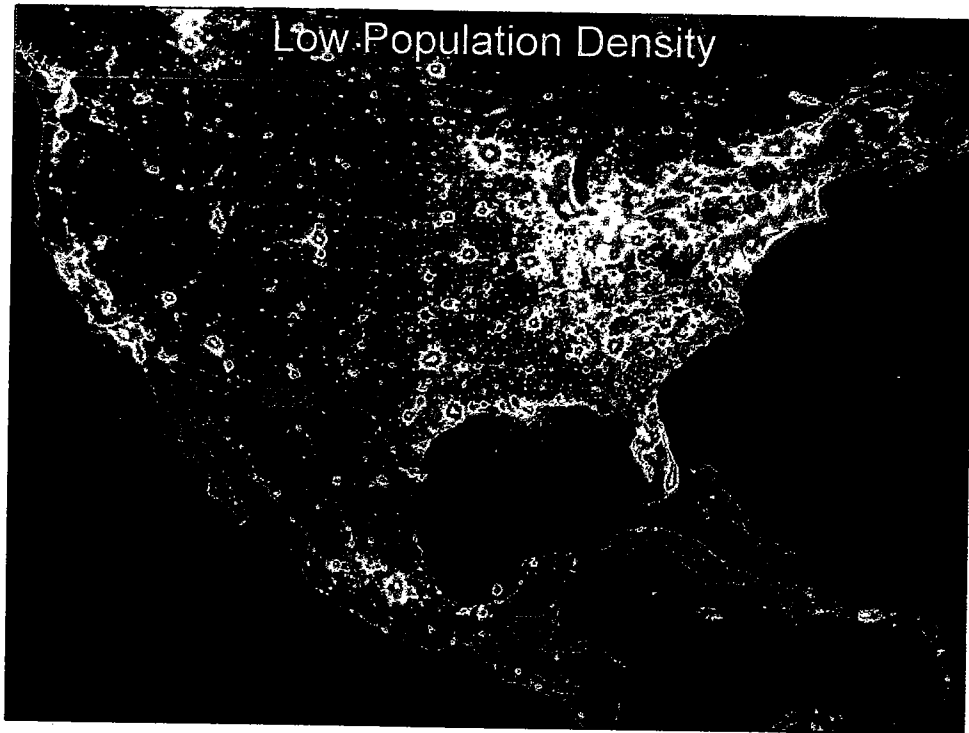
Program Highlights

- 1994-1996: Completed feasibility studies for an inland spaceport
- 1996-1997: Conducted environmental studies and submitted initial license application to the FAA
- 1998: Submitted Statement of Qualifications to Lockheed Martin to host the VentureStar program. LM told NM that our proposal was the top rated.
- 2003: Submitted Proposal to X Prize Foundation to host the X Prize Cup
- 2004: New Mexico was selected to host the X Prize Cup

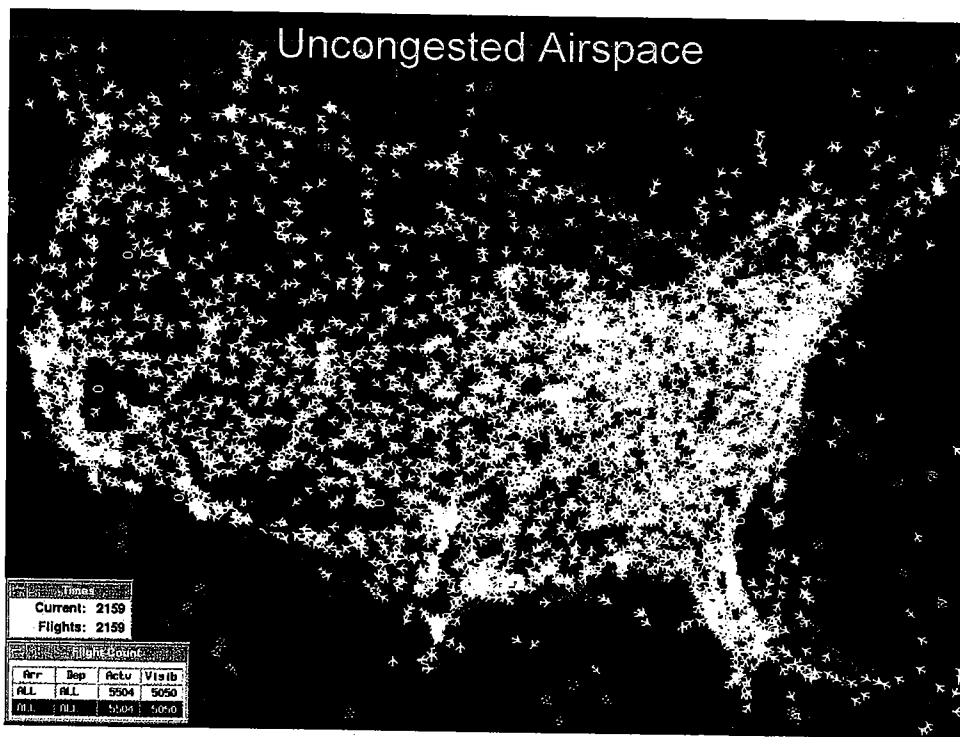
New Mexico's Advantages

- Low population density
- Uncongested airspace
- Altitude advantages
- Excellent weather
- State support, both political and popular

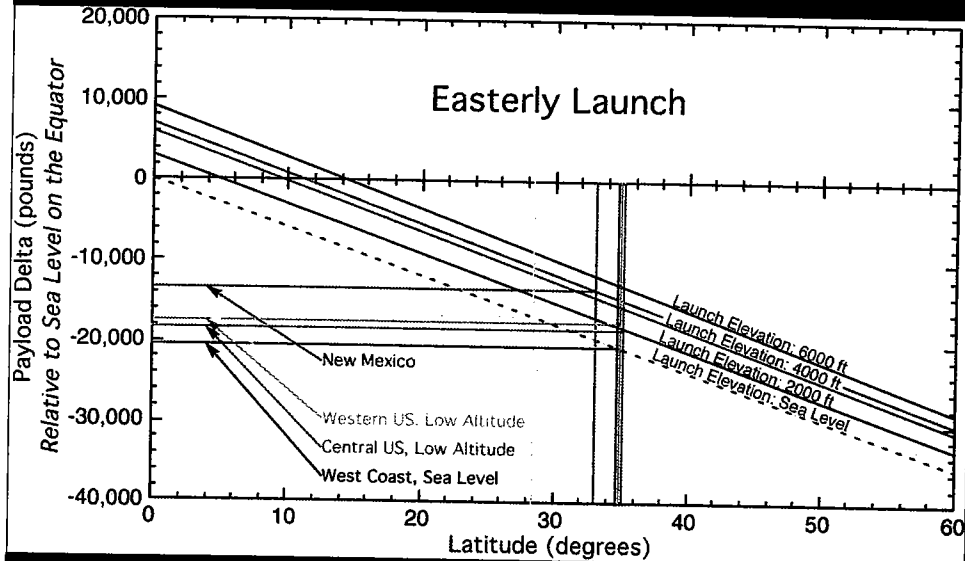
Low Population Density



Uncongested Airspace



High Altitude Launch Site Provides More Payload

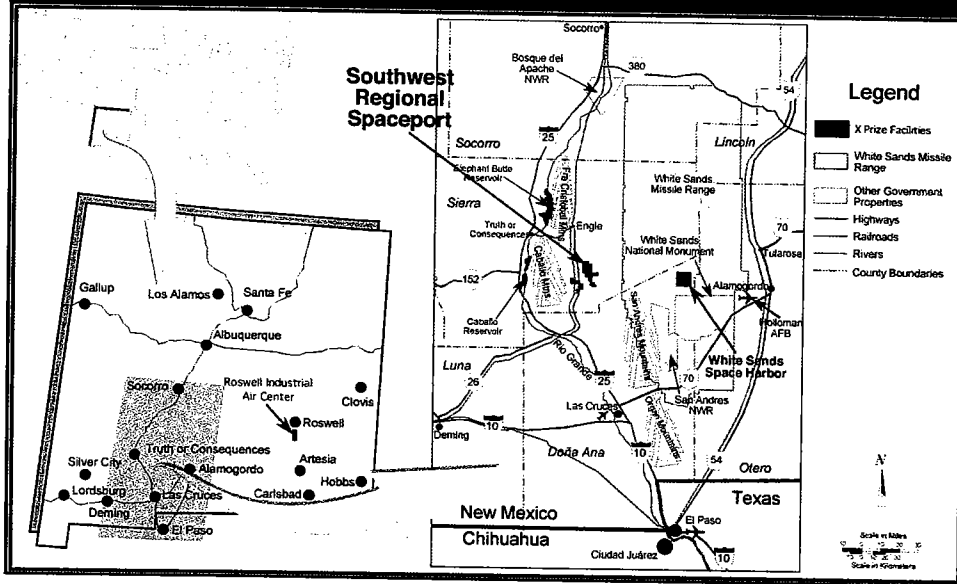


This plot applies to vertical launch to orbit, but a similar advantage applies to vertical launch of suborbital vehicles

Excellent Weather

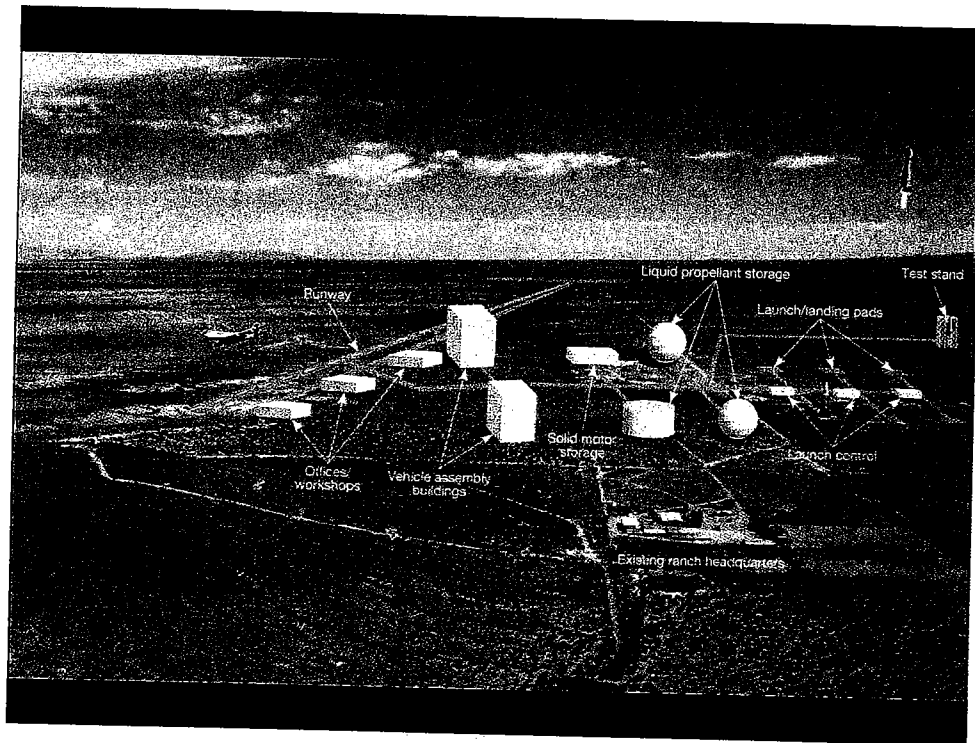
- Southern New Mexico's benign climate is amenable to year-round outdoor work
- Major weather disturbances, such as hurricanes and tornadoes, are rare.
- There is no salt air corrosion

The SRS is in southern New Mexico in Sierra County, between Las Cruces and Truth or Consequences



Status

- Since winning the X Prize Cup, NM has been working to develop the program and required infrastructure
- Drawing shows conceptual layout for X Prize Cup
 - Runway, launch/landing pads, propellant storage, vehicle assembly buildings, office and control buildings
- X Prize Cup flight events could begin as early as 2006



Issues and Concerns

- We believe commercial space is an emerging industry that has the potential for significant positive impact on the US economy
- We ask Congress and the regulatory agencies to take a careful approach to legislation and regulation of this industry to ensure that unintended negative effects do not occur

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. This concludes my presentation. I will be happy to answer your questions.