

review the progress of the Committee's five subcommittees. The meeting is open to public participation through live stream at <http://www.state.gov/s/sacsed/c47725.htm>.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on May 16, 2012, from 12:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW., Washington, DC.

Written comments may be submitted to Madeleine Ioannou via email to [civilsociety@state.gov](mailto:civilsociety@state.gov) or facsimile to (202) 736-7880. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received at the U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW., Room 1317, Washington, DC 20520. Please call ahead to (202) 736-7824 to facilitate entry into the building.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Madeleine Ioannou, Committee Executive Secretary, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW., Room 1317, Washington, DC 20520; (202) 736-7308; [civilsociety@state.gov](mailto:civilsociety@state.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public and will be streamed live at: <http://www.state.gov/s/sacsed/c47725.htm>. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Presentations by the Chairs of the Subcommittees, (3) Discussion of any Public Submissions, (4) General Discussion, (5) Adjournment. Anyone who would like to bring related matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff by sending an email to [civilsociety@state.gov](mailto:civilsociety@state.gov).

Dated: April 25, 2012.

**Madeleine Ioannou,**

*Office of the Senior Advisor for Civil Society and Emerging Democracies, U.S. Department of State.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration

#### Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST); Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Launch and Reentry of SpaceShipTwo Reusable Suborbital Rockets at the Mojave Air and Space Port

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), lead Federal

agency and United States Air Force and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, cooperating agencies, DOT.

**ACTIONS:** Notice of Availability of Final EA and FONSI.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations parts 1500 to 1508), and FAA Order 1050.1E, Change 1, the FAA is announcing the availability of the Final EA and FONSI for the Launch and Reentry of SpaceShipTwo Reusable Suborbital Rockets at the Mojave Air and Space Port.

The Final EA was prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts of issuing experimental permits and/or launch licenses to operate SpaceShipTwo reusable suborbital rockets and WhiteKnightTwo carrier aircraft at the Mojave Air and Space Port in Mojave, California. Under the Proposed Action, the FAA would issue experimental permits and/or launch licenses to multiple operators for the operation of SpaceShipTwo and WhiteKnightTwo at the Mojave Air and Space Port. Both WhiteKnightTwo and SpaceShipTwo would be piloted during operations. The Mojave Air and Space Port comprises an area of approximately 3,000 acres in Kern County, California, and is east of the unincorporated town of Mojave. The Final EA addresses the potential environmental impacts of implementing the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative of not issuing an experimental permit and/or launch license for the operation of SpaceShipTwo and WhiteKnightTwo at the Mojave Air and Space Port.

The FAA has posted the Final EA and FONSI on the FAA/AST Web site: [http://www.faa.gov/about/office\\_org/headquarters\\_offices/ast/environmental/review/permits/](http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ast/environmental/review/permits/). A paper copy of the Final EA and FONSI may be reviewed during regular business hours at the following locations:

Edwards AFB Base Library, 95 SPTG/SVMG, 5 West Yeager Blvd., Building 2665, Edwards AFB, CA 93524-1295.

Kern County Library, Boron Branch, 26967 20 Mule Team Road, Boron, CA 93516.

Kern County Library, California City Branch, 9507 California City Boulevard, California City, CA 93505.

Kern County Library, Kernville Branch, 48 Tobias Street, Kernville, CA 93238.

Kern County Library, Mojave Branch, 16916-1/2 Highway 14, Mojave, CA 93501.

Kern County Library, Ridgecrest Branch, 131 East Las Flores Avenue, Ridgecrest, CA 93555.

Kern County Library, Tehachapi Branch, 450 West F Street, Tehachapi, CA 93561.

Kern County Library, Wofford Heights Branch, 6400-B Wofford Boulevard, Wofford Heights, CA 93285.

Kern River Valley Library, 7054 Lake Isabella Boulevard, Lake Isabella, CA 93240.

Kern River Valley Library, Wanda Kirk Branch (Rosamond), 3611 Rosamond Boulevard, Rosamond, CA 93560.

**Additional Information:** Under the Proposed Action, the FAA would issue experimental permits and/or launch licenses for the operation of SpaceShipTwo and WhiteKnightTwo at the Mojave Air and Space Port in Mojave, CA. The Proposed Action does not include any construction activities. The Mojave Air and Space Port's existing infrastructure would be used for takeoff and landing activities. Experimental permits would be valid for one year. Launch licenses would be valid for two years. The FAA could renew experimental permits and launch licenses if requested, in writing, by the permittees at least 60 days before the permit expires, and/or by the licensees at least 90 days before the license expires. The Final EA assumes that the FAA could issue either new or renewed experimental permits and/or launch licenses. For purposes of analyzing environmental impacts in the Final EA, the FAA developed a conservative set of assumptions regarding the possible number of launches and reentries that could be conducted under any one experimental permit and/or launch license for the SpaceShipTwo at the Mojave Air and Space Port. The FAA has assumed a maximum of up to 30 total launches and reentries per year of SpaceShipTwo for a total of up to 150 launches and reentries of SpaceShipTwo between 2012 and 2016. This estimation is a conservative number and considers potential multiple launches per day and potential launch aborts.

The only alternative to the Proposed Action analyzed in the Final EA is the No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the FAA would not issue experimental permits and/or launch licenses for the operation of SpaceShipTwo and WhiteKnightTwo from the Mojave Air and Space Port. Existing operations at Mojave Air and Space Port would continue.

The resource areas considered in the Final EA include air quality; biological resources (including fish, wildlife, and plants); historical, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources; hazardous materials, pollution prevention, and solid waste; health and safety; land use (including Department of Transportation Section 4(f) properties); light emissions and visual

resources; noise and compatible land use; socioeconomic resources, environmental justice, and children's environmental health and safety; and cumulative impacts.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mr. Daniel Czelusniak, Environmental Program Lead, Office of Commercial Space Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence

Avenue SW., Room 325, Washington, DC 20591; email [Daniel.Czelusniak@faa.gov](mailto:Daniel.Czelusniak@faa.gov); or phone (202) 267-5924;.

Issued in Washington, DC on: May 1, 2012.

**Michael McElligott,**

*Manager, Space Transportation Development Division.*

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