# The State of Play <br> US Space Systems Competitiveness 

Prices, Productivity, and Other Measures of Launchers \& Spacecraft

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## Updates

## 09/25/2017

Launches

- US Major Launches (slide 9),
\& US Launch Tempo (slide 24) for launch of Atlas V September 23, 2017 ...NRO
Global Commercial (slide 23) for launch of Proton September 11, 2017 ...Amazonas
- US Major Launches (slide 9), \& US Launch Tempo (slide 24) for launch of Falcon 9 September 7, 2017 ...X-37
- US Major Launches (slide 9), Global Commercial (slide 23) \& US Launch Tempo (slide 24) for launch of Falcon 9 August 24, 2017 ...Formosat
- US Major Launches (slide 9),
\& US Launch Tempo (slide 24) for launch of Atlas V August 18, 2017 ...TDRS
- US Major Launches (slide 9), Global Commercial (slide 23) \& US Launch Tempo (slide 24) for launch of Falcon 9 August 14, 2017 ...CRS-12 - US Major Launches (slide 9), Global Commercial (slide 23) \& US Launch Tempo (slide 24) for launch of Falcon 9 July 5, 2017 ...Intelsat - Launch Systems - Multiple Measures (slide 19), "Best" Total kg in a year by any Model, for Falcon 9 ->13 launches to date in 2017

Global Commercial (slide 23) for launch of Ariane 5 May 4, 2017

## Other

- Commercial Crew test flight dates (slide 6)


## 06/26/2017

Launches

- US Major Launches (slide 9), Global Commercial (slide 23) \& US Launch Tempo (slide 24) for launch of Falcon 9 June 25, 2017 ...Iridium - US Major Launches (slide 9), Global Commercial (slide 23) \& US Launch Tempo (slide 24) for launch of Falcon 9 June 23, 2017 ...Bulgariasat - Global Commercial (slide 23) for launch of Proton June 7, 2017
- US Major Launches (slide 9), Global Commercial (slide 23) \& US Launch Tempo (slide 24) for launch of Falcon 9 June 3, 2017 ...CRS-11
- Global Commercial (slide 23) for launch of Ariane 5 June 1, 2017
- Global Commercial (slide 23) for launch of Soyuz (Arianespace/French Guiana) May 18, 2017
- US Major Launches (slide 9), Global Commercial (slide 23) \& US Launch Tempo (slide 24) for launch of Falcon 9 May 15, 2017 ...Inmarsat - Global Commercial (slide 23) for launch of Ariane 5 May 4, 2017
- US Major Launches (slide 9),
\& US Launch Tempo (slide 24) for launch of Falcon 9 May 1, 2017 ...NRO
Other
- Commercial Crew: Update to dates of $1^{\text {st }}$ flights (slide 9)
- Budget: Updates for 2017 budget deal May 1, 2017 (slide 8), after the 2017 Continuing Resolution
- SLS: Corrected labeling of SLS data point (slide 10); point does include a \% of ground systems

Orion: Updates to Orion data text description (slide 20)

## Purpose

- Collects (only) PUBLIC space systems cost and related data -flight rate, payload mass, etc.
- Compile public data - contract announcements, budget docs, etc.
- Separate non-recurring and recurring
- Minimal data processing; if adjustments, only for apples to apples
- Inflation to current year dollars, to same orbit, same mass metric, etc.
- Provide context, compare across systems, graph, visualize
- Focus on US space systems competitiveness (it's not all just costs)
- Keep fresh
- Update as new data is published, as launches occur, etc.
- Focus on recent data, indicative of the near future


## Purpose

Lets do the math

## Caveats \& Terminology

- The "price" to a customer is the procurement or contract "cost" to NASA, DoD, NRO, private sector, etc.
- But total costs would include other internal program/project management costs - in a government agency, personnel and other costs
- The data ahead are almost all flavors of this (NOT the "costs" inside a company or agency before this or that are added, etc.)
- Among many other "asterisks"
- Uncertainties - inevitable; data refinement - continuous
- Minimally processed data BUT-
- Anecdotal evidence some launch pricing actually runs much higher in the end than publicly announced or advertised (Russia/Proton, etc.)
- Some public data is processed more - due to different contract phases, multiple partners, not yet complete, age of the data, etc. (SLS, Orion, Commercial Crew, Apollo, etc.)


## Source Data

- Source data for this report is available in the Life Cycle Cost (LCC) Model
- Data sheets are available upon request to NASA, government, government contractors or for peer/collaborative purposes
- Contact edgar.zapata-1@nasa.gov



## Source Data

## Example Data Sheet



The NASA Budget - Purchase Power Drop Since 2003 = 9\%


## NASA Mission Launches

(Fiscal Years 2014-2020)


## Recent Launch Prices as $\mathbf{\$ / k g}$ of Payload (2017\$)

US Medium Launch + Scout, Shuttle, SLS, Falcon Heavy


- The line is a power curve fit ONLY to the points indicated with->
- For NASA and DoD, data are prices to the government, that is procurement costs only, excluding government management, personnel and related.
- For the Space Shuttle, to give a more consistent CARGO comparison, total recurring costs from life cycle cost data (1983-2013) were adjusted to remove crew at a Soyuz price rate, NASA management (civil service) and related were removed to leave procurement dollars only, and R\&D years 1981-1982 were excluded as nonoperational. Similarly, for SLS the NASA management (personnel) and related costs are also excluded, but unlike Shuttle, ground ops are excluded.


## Recent Launch Prices as $\mathbf{\$ / k g}$ of Payload (2017\$)

US Medium Launch - NO Scout, Shuttle, SLS


## Recent Launch Prices as $\mathbf{\$ / k g}$ of Payload (2017\$)

With Available US Small Launch / Services

NanoRacks as of 12/7/2015
$\triangle$ SpaceFlight Services as of 12/7/2015

See Backup slides for data sources


## Recent Launch Prices as $\mathbf{\$ / k g}$ of Payload (2017\$)

With Available US Small Launch / Services + Some In Development

NanoRacks as of $12 / 7 / 2015$
SpaceFlight Services as of
12/7/2015
Virgin Galactic Launcher One as of 9/14/2015Rocket Labs as of $8 / 10 / 2015$
Generation Orbit as of 6/5/2015

See Backup slides for data sources


Recent Launch Prices vs. Payload Capability (2017\$)


Global Views

NASA E. Zapata NASA
04/12/2017
\$ per Kg (2017\$) Existing Capability

Atlas V 401 Private Customer


## Global Views

## \$ per Kg (2017\$) Existing Capability \& Planned

NASA E. Zapata NAS
04/12/2017
Note: Proton-M and GSLV data point uncertainty high. Minotaur I data point is old, 2013. Pegasus has no announced customers after NASA in 2017. "Planned" data points are from specific company statements, but Stratolaunch, ULANulcan and Angara A5 data points are derived, from less specific company statements. Falcon Heavy Gov't is estimated based on Falcon 9 Gov't price percentages above private sector price.

Atlas V 401 Private Customer


Global Views

## E. Zapata NASA

04/12/2016
Launch Prices Existing Capabilities (2017 \$)




Trying to estimate a launch price, the cost of a launch for NASA or DoD? Ask the following, then see which data point above is most similar.

1. Who is procuring the launch?

The NASA Launch Services Program? The NASA ISS Transportation Office (Cargo)? The NASA ISS Commercial Crew Office? The DoD / Air Force? The DoD / Air Force for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)? A private sector customer?
2. How is the launch procured? As a block of launches, or as a single award unrelated to others? As a service (like cargo to the ISS)?
3. With what other items is the launcher being procured alongside, such as a spacecraft (Cygnus, Dragon)?
4. What is being launched? Is the launch for simpler cargo, repetitive and similar, or more complex, irreplaceable, unique? Or is it for crew?

Spacecraft Costs - Development
(Costs = Price to NASA)


## Spacecraft Costs - Per Unit - \$ Thru Delivery Point as Indicated

(Costs = Price to NASA)


## Uncertainties, Programs Still in Development

- Future budgets in public documents are often "notional"
- They may go UP or DOWN
- Example

- Prior Commercial Crew Recurring Price (by 2020) is based heavily (with adjustments) on FY 16 notional public budget
- https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/fy2016 budget book 508 tagged 0.pdf
- The FY 18 notional public budgets are much LOWER by 2020 (operational)
- https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/fy 2018 budget estimates.pdf
- Other programs show INCREASES in 2018 notional public budget out to 2020 (development) vs. prior years

Cost data updates are a continuous process especially until programs complete development and regular operations begin

## Competitiveness

Commercial launch data through 2014 from US DOT http://www.rita.dot.gov/bts/node/490911
2015-2017 data from assorted sources
Total global major launch count and failures from http://www.spacelaunchreport.com/log2017.html\#stats


Growth


## Closing

- Space is hard
- Adding up space system costs, budgets, flights, payload capabilities, etc. - not hard, just tedious
- Define competitiveness, compare systems, understand cost vs. productivity
- Establish facts on the ground
- Value: situational awareness
- Where are we?
- Where might we go?

Questions?

## Backup

## Data Sources, Small Payload Launch Options, Small Launch in Development, Other (see slides 6-7)

- As of 12/07/2015 - NanoRacks - "Commercial payloads start at $\$ 60,000$ per $1 U^{\prime}$ + volume discounts, to 50 kg as advertised @ http://nanoracks.com/resources/fad/
- 3 U \$295,000, 6 U \$545,000, 12U \$995,000, 50kg \$1,750,000, 100kg \$3,950,000, 200kg \$5,950,000, 300kg \$7,950,000 as advertised @ http://www.spaceflightindustries.com/schedule-pricing/
- SpaceX - secondary payload "PPOD" to LEO $\$ 200,000-\$ 325,000\left(=\$ 67,000-\$ 108,000 / \mathrm{kg}\right.$; from Aug. 2012, $26^{\text {th }}$ Annual AIAA USU, Conference on Small Satellites)
- SpaceX - secondary payload, ESPA-class satellite weighing up to 180 kilograms would cost $\$ 4-5$ million for LEO; from August 2012, 26 th Annual AIAA USU, Conference on Small Satellites (=\$22,000 to \$28,000/kg)
- As of 09/14/2015 - Virgin / Launcher One - In development - 400kg to LEO for $\$ 10 \mathrm{M}$ (=\$25,000/kg) per http://www.parabolicarc.com/2015/09/14/virgin-galactic-announces-capable-launcherone/
- As of 08/10/2015 - Rocket Lab - In development - 100kg to LEO for $\$ 4.9 \mathrm{M}$ ( $=49,000 / \mathrm{kg}$ ) per http://www.geekwire.com/2015/reserve-a-launch-for-your-satellite-online-rocket-lab-can-make-it-so/ albeit to a 310 mile high orbit, implying performance to LEO 200nm is more, so the
- As of 06/05/2015-Generation Orbit - In development - 40kg to LEO for $\$ 2.5 \mathrm{M}(=\$ 62,500 / \mathrm{kg}$ ) per http://www.satellitetoday.com/launch/2015/06/05/generation-orbit-gains-golauncher2-commitments-plans-golauncher-3/
- As of 07/08/2016 - Stratolaunch / Vulcan Aerospace - In development - No public price statements by the company. Some early payload performance statements ( $6,100 \mathrm{~kg}$ to LEO) that have since been overtaken by events. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stratolaunch Systems


## Misc.

## Ariane 6 in the news:

July 2, 2014

## Airbus Defends Springing Last-minute Ariane 6 Design on ESA

"PARIS - The head of Airbus' space division on July 1 said his company was forced to come up with an Ariane 6 rocket design that competed with the version approved by the European and French space agencies because the agency version ultimately would have decimated Europe's rocket industry.

Testifying before the French Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Armed Forces, Francois Auque said the solid-fuel-dominated Ariane 6 design that the European Space Agency and the French space agency, CNES, approved in July 2013 would have attracted mainly European government customers - a market whose size would mean reducing Europe's rocket design and production industry by two-thirds.

To avoid being decimated, he said, European rocket builders needed to be sure that the commercial market, which accounts for 90 percent of the launches of Europe's current heavy-lift Ariane 5 vehicle, would support the new vehicle."
http://www.spacenews.com/article/launch-report/41117airbus-defends-springing-last-minute-ariane-6-design-on-esa

## Misc.

## Delta IV Cost (Price) to NASA:

March 18, 2015

## Delta 4-Heavy Selected for Launch of Solar Probe

"As expected, NASA announced its selection of the United Launch Alliance Delta 4Heavy rocket to dispatch the Solar Probe Plus mission from Earth. Liftoff from Cape Canaveral is set for July 31, 2018, at the opening of a 20-day launch window, NASA said in a press release.

The launch contract's value is $\$ 389.1$ million, according to NASA."
http://spaceflightnow.com/2015/03/18/delta-4-heavy-selected-for-launch-of-solar-probe/

## Misc.

## Falcon 9 Cost (Price) to NASA:

November 22, 2016

## NASA Selects Launch Services for Global Surface Water Survey Mission

"NASA has selected Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) of Hawthorne, California, to provide launch services for the agency's Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) mission. Launch is targeted for April 2021 on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

The total cost for NASA to launch SWOT is approximately $\$ 112$ million."
https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-selects-launch-services-for-global-surface-water-survey-mission

