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THE PROSPECTS OF THE SPACEPORT IN CATALONIA: STATUS, MODEL AND STEPS  
FORWARD TOWARDS A PRIVATE-PUBLIC COLLABORATION

**Abstract**

The Lleida-Alguaire airport is located 15 kilometers away from the city of Lleida and about 140 kilometers away from Barcelona's city center, in Catalonia (Spain). This airport was inaugurated in 2010 as the first commercial airport promoted by the Government of Catalonia and was conceived as an economic driver for the region of Lleida.

The location of this airport, which is situated in the vicinities of a low populated area however effectively connected to the city of Lleida and Barcelona; its constructive characteristics and a rather moderate traffic of commercial airplanes, among a range of other interesting features, positions this airport as a highly competitive candidate for a Spaceport for private suborbital flights in Southern Europe.

The aim of this paper is to present the initiative of establishing a Spaceport for suborbital flights in Catalonia, its current status, model and steps forward towards a promising private-public collaboration with the objective of becoming the Spaceport for suborbital flights in Southern Europe.