

BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)
The General Role of Government in Encouraging Space Industry Applications (1)

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INTRODUCTION TO THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION

Abstract

Between August 2009 and September 2010, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) conducted a competitive selection process with the purpose of establishing a Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation (COE CST). The purpose of the COE CST is to help the Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST) execute its dual mission through a dedicated university research program.

This paper includes the following major sections:

- An overview of the FAA COE program and the AST COE CST.
- A description of the competitive selection process and results.
- An introduction to the nine COE CST member universities and an overview of their organizational relationship to AST.
- A description of the structure of the research activity areas, including examples of research tasks being undertaken during the first year of COE CST operation in each of the four main research areas.
- A discussion of opportunities for the participation of non-U.S. organizations in the COE CST.