

SPACE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS SYMPOSIUM (D2)
Interactive Presentations (IP)

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THE CHOICE OF CANDIDATE LAUNCHERS FOR OPERATION FROM A NATIONAL SPACEPORT

Abstract

Aspirations to establish a spaceport on national territory are currently expressed by a range of countries and these supposed spaceports do not always have national launch vehicles to operate from them, at least at the start. The task of choosing suitable candidate launchers from among the range of those launch vehicles which are available is governed by the various conditions and requirements that proceed both from the sort of operations envisaged for the future spaceport and from the country's capabilities for the provision of these operations. An approach to the choice of a suitable launcher (or launchers) taking into consideration the necessity to meet the required conditions with a simultaneous minimization of expenditures is described in the paper. The defining factors and main criteria of the choice are discussed and assessed from a point of view of their influence on the results of the final choice. Necessary compromises are also assessed and a presentation of recommendations for several typical cases is made.