

IAF SPACE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS SYMPOSIUM (D2)
Launch Services, Missions, Operations, and Facilities (2)

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SUSTAINABILITY AND RELIABILITY IN MIND WHEN BUILDING EUROPE'S SMALLSAT
SPACEPORT IN NORWAY

Abstract

This paper presents the ongoing process to establish a European launch site dedicated to small satellites at Andøya in Northern Norway. The area zonal plan for the new site is approved as of March 2020 and construction is expected to begin in April 2020. New target for first orbital launch is Q2-2021. The UN's sustainability goals have been important guidelines in planning Andøya Spaceport (ASP). Andøya Space Center (ASC) adopts several of the global goals in our work with developing a sustainable spaceport. The local EIA showed that the spaceport is in an environmentally sensitive area, surrounded by large, undisturbed marshlands and hosting a wide variety of wildlife. An important focus in the development is a strong effort to limit the environmental footprint of the site in all phases; planning – building and running the spaceport. In addition, the area is of great importance to the local community and other industries; both fisheries and tourism is affected by the spaceport development, and close communication is key to ensure a prosperous future for all parties. We will share our experiences, environmental goals and methods to measure actions going forward. Designing an entirely new launch site targeting the fast growing NewSpace launch market enables ASC to implement the latest of available technology and to create a spaceport with a “green” profile. New solutions and partnerships are revolutionizing the space transportation industry and ASP will be a true NewSpace site, open for multiple launch vehicles and user groups, with a high degree of flexibility and less customized solutions. Norway is in process of updating the national space law and regulations, and the work is planned to be finished by 2021. A first draft of the new law, consisting of 38 paragraphs, has been handed to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries in early February 2020 and is now in the democratic hearing period . In parallel, Andøya Spaceport is working closely with the Ministry and the Norwegian Space Agency to prepare for a temporary launch site licence based on the existing space law, to avoid that the first orbital launch is held back by the ongoing process of updating the national space law. We will share our experiences on going from a suborbital launch site to an orbital launch site, as well as how we plan to operate on the site.