

IAF SYMPOSIUM ON COMMERCIAL SPACEFLIGHT SAFETY ISSUES (D6)  
Enabling safe commercial spaceflight: vehicles and spaceports (3)

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SPACE PORT ISRAEL - CREATING EAST MEDITERRANEAN SPACEPORT

**Abstract**

The paper is analyzing perspectives and feasibility creating Vertical Take Off and Landing and Horizontal Take off and Landing Sites in Israel - East Mediterranean as well as Strategy and Action Plan to achieve that. In addition, it provides updates on the status in Space Port Israel development. The idea has gained big interest within Israeli Space Industry and Community despite the country's challenging geo-political location and congested airspace. As one from a very few – 11 space-faring nations having capability to build, launch and operate satellites and just one from 5 elite club countries have reached the Moon, Israel Space capabilities are well known as in Military and Civil fields. Israel is also leading in the development of small high resolution imaging satellites for low earth orbits as Italian Ministry of Defence's Optsat-3000 satellite and Vens, an environmental monitoring satellite for the French and Israeli space agencies. The paper addresses Issue Background – Private Space Flight Industry Status; World Space Ports Status and perspectives – latest developments in Small Satellites Launch sites, elaborates Space Port Various Aspects and Site Selection Criteria. Need in Space Port for Israel analyzed in lights upcoming Sub orbital intercontinental transportation and Small Cube Satellites constellations. Benefits to Israel from having a Space Port as a Near Space Transportation Center and Servicing Hub, Technological Park depicted. The Spaceport Technological Park will serve Space related companies and not only. Spaceport existence itself will be a contributing factor in the decision making process for Companies to establish manufacturing or RD facilities in Israel. This in turn will boost technology development and create jobs. The paper shows Proposed Locations for Space Port Israel -VTOL and HTOL Sites and assess them. Currently HTOL Site is the most feasible option. Development finance model should be based on a balanced approach in funding and investments between central government and Commercial Companies, both interested in Space Port development. However, if the Government wants Israel to become the more important center for the space industry, it is likely that central funding for a spaceport would be needed or at least have a bigger share over Commercial Companies investments. Action Strategy based on Non Governmental Institution as an idea promoter is detailed. Action Plan and its accomplishment status described. The paper concludes: As Airports in early 20th Century, so Spaceports are unique and rare in the beginning, on the way to be widely spread all over the Globe.