

IAF SPACE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS SYMPOSIUM (D2)  
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GROUND UP LAUNCH SERVICES: HOW FACILITY-RELATED OPERATIONS AND  
GOVERNMENT CONTROLS AFFECT SPACE PORT VIABILITY FOR LAUNCH PROVIDERS

**Abstract**

This paper focuses on two key considerations in launch services, the ground operations supporting launch activities and the governmental frameworks overseeing launch activities. In particular, this paper asks where the law and policy mechanisms, by way of regulation and public spending, are in line with the extent of development, logistical, workplace safety, community interest and insurance matters associated with the ground operations required to support launch activities. Two case studies are examined, the United Kingdom on one hand and Australia on the other, both similar in that commercial space ports are only recently operating under government frameworks. Analysing the governance mechanisms and the practicalities otherwise regarding the operation ground services of launches in the UK and in Australia yields an important finding. This finding indicates that no matter the strength of a launch location based on technological, financial, environmental or economical grounds, the make-or-break aspect of a launch facility, presuming effective management by the launch site operator, is how the government imposes regulation and how it directs the spending of public monies relative to space activities. To conclude, the paper briefly draws on models which vary to those of Australia and the UK, namely New Zealand, Norway and France so as to consider alternative pathways which may better facilitate the desired types of launch services within government and non-government programs.