

# NM Spaceport Authority Status Brief

## Science, Technology & Telecommunications Committee

Santa Fe

November 15, 2021

Scott McLaughlin, Executive Director



 **SPACEPORT AMERICA**

THE SPACE TO BE...

# OUTLINE

- Activity
- Budget
- Outlook



# RECENT ACTIVITY

- **SpinLaunch** first kinetic launch tests
- Two flights to space by **Virgin Galactic**
- Liquid rocket engine testing by **C6 Launch** and **Ursa Major**
- **Intuitive Machines** tested laser assisted landing system to be used for moon
- High Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS) flights by **Swift Engineering**
- Space flight by **UP Aerospace** with **LANL** as customer
- Start of operations by **AeroVironment Jump 20** and **AeroVironment TUAS**
- Rocket launches by **NM Tech, NMSU Atomic Aggies, U.S. West Point Academy**
- Virtual **Spaceport America Cup** (June 2021) with 70 teams from 16 countries
- Developed lesson plans for virtual **NMSU STEM Outreach**, as well as provided **virtual tours and STEM speakers** in classrooms throughout NM
- Recognized for arts integration in **STEM project with LCPS**; working with Global Spaceport Alliance for **STEM International Space Station research**
- Working with several good aerospace prospects

# VIRGIN GALACTIC



- Completed two flights to space this year (May 22, & July 11).
- Unveiled new spaceship, *VSS Imagine*.
- Currently about 180 employees living and working in NM (will increase next year).
- Entering enhancement period for carrier aircraft



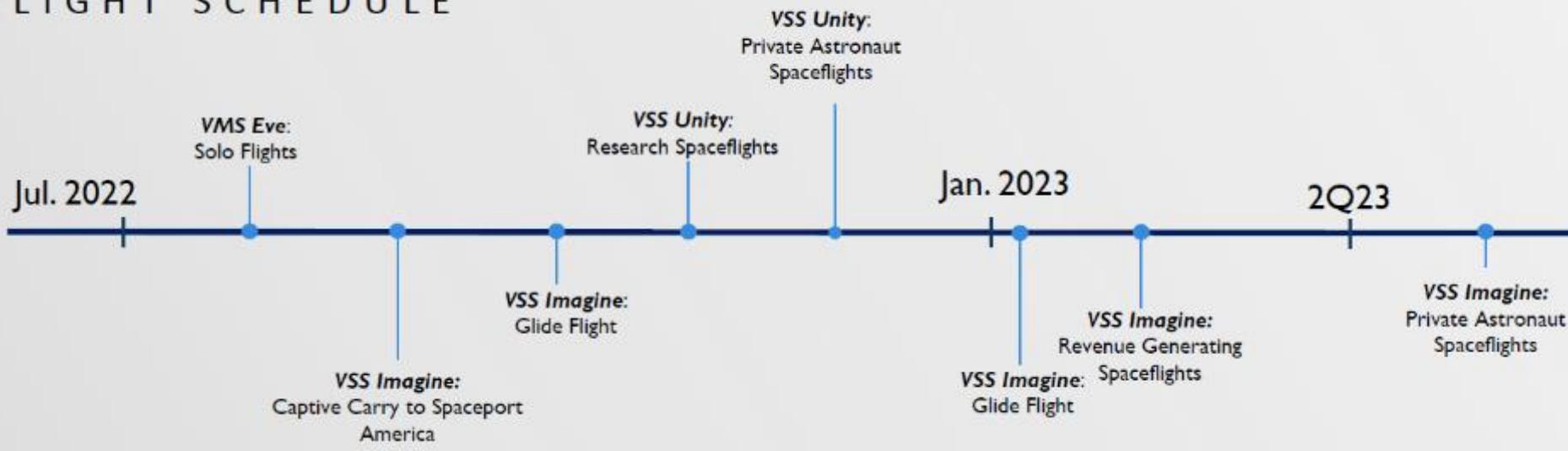
# VIRGIN GALACTIC TIMELINE



From 2021 Q3, released Nov. 8 (\*<https://investors.virgingalactic.com/events-and-presentations>)

- Enhancement period for carrier aircraft should result in 100 flights between major maintenance inspections (up from 10)
- Carrier aircraft and new spaceship return to SA around Q3 2022
- Private Astronaut Service scheduled for Q4 2022
- About 3 flights a month by Q2 2023

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE



# SMALL LAUNCHES

- New Mexico Tech



- NMSU Atomic Aggies



- U.S. West Point Academy



- Vaya Space Systems



# UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (UAV)

- **Swift Engineering**

Operating at Spaceport since 2020. Returned recently for multi-month long campaign



- **Stratodynamics**

Balloon-launched UAV. Returns autonomously and collects meteorological and turbulence data



- **AeroVironment**

Besides **Sunglider** (discussed on next slide), there is an increasing presence on site with additional two additional programs, **Jump 20**, and **TUAS**



# AEROVIRONMENT / HAPSMOBILE

- **Sunlider** is a solar-powered high-altitude platform-station (HAPS)
- Over \$8M in construction paid by customer for new test site, includes large hangar, offices, mission control, maintenance space
- Airplane has 260' wingspan, 10 electric motors, and can fly to 80,000'
- Eventually two will be on site; multi-year effort for FAA certification
- Their market is “cell phone tower in the sky” and other



# AEROVIRONMENT NEW TEST SITE



About 35 people on site, with increase when flight operations – up to 100

# OTHER ACTIVITY

- **C6 Launch and Ursa Major**  
Customer built new rocket engine test stand (now an SpA asset) and ran rocket engine tests over several weeks
- **Intuitive Machines**  
Tested laser assisted landing system to be used for moon or other celestial body landing



# UP AEROSPACE & LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORIES



*“Normally, these tests are made over the Pacific Ocean. And to test a new piece of technology on a rocket takes years of planning with the DOD and can cost more than \$100 million. But by partnering with private companies, the Lab can conduct these tests much more frequently and at a fraction of the cost within the State of New Mexico. The flight at New Mexico’s Spaceport America, Aug. 11, cost only \$1 million and occurred only 15 months after the initial concept.”*

LANL Deputy Director of Weapons Bob Webster



NM STTC Presentation

# SPINLAUNCH



- Suborbital now substantially complete, expect about 30 employees on site
- Construction was over two years and estimated at over \$40M
- Visit [www.spinlaunch.com](http://www.spinlaunch.com) for videos etc.



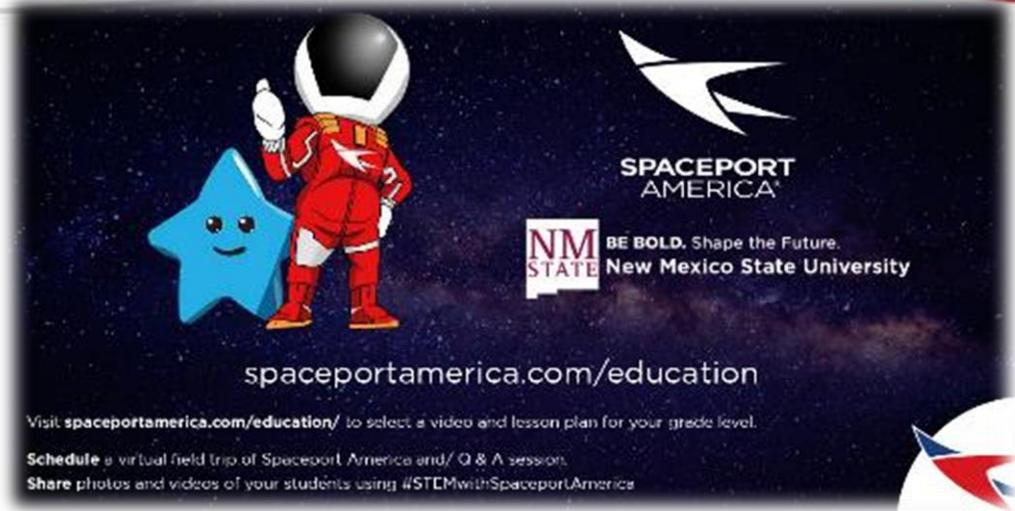
- Premier event hosted by Spaceport America since 2017
- 2019 Cup included 122 teams, about 1500 students in attendance (representing 14 different countries), 80 sponsors, 100 judges.
- 2020 cancelled, 2021 successfully held virtually
- *The in-person event delivers an estimated \$1.5 million in economic impact (hotels, restaurants, etc.) and realizes large earned media and marketing windfall for the Spaceport, Las Cruces, and New Mexico.*



2019 SA Cup Participants

# STEM OUTREACH & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Ongoing production of educational videos with aerospace related science
- Podcasts on social media
- Visits to local schools (before and after COVID)
- Working with NM Public Education Department (PED) for additional outreach
- Student visits to SpA and partnership with tenants
- Work to create excitement about STEM and cultivate ongoing workforce pipeline for spaceport customers
- Foster entrepreneurship and keep young New Mexicans in New Mexico



# NMSA BUDGET

# NMSA BUDGET BACKGROUND



- Operations have increased significantly in the last few years, requiring additional employees and protective services personnel.
- NMSA budget is about \$10.9 million per year. Customer revenue provides around \$6.8 million; with \$4 million needed from GF.
- NMSA had relied on about \$2 million per year of GRT Excess Pledged Revenues (EPR) . . . this is no longer an option.
- NMSA operating expenses include fixed costs that cannot be cut, including facilities maintenance and 24/7 site operations
- If the \$2 million EPR amount is not replaced, NMSA will be in deficit, and will have to make severe cuts to the operational budget, staff, and onsite services. These cuts will directly affect obligatory contractual services, and negatively impacting tenant operations.

# NMSA BUDGET (THOUSANDS)

Item	FY21 (20 FTE)	FY22 (~28 FTE)	FY23 (~ 28 FTE)	Notes
Operating Revenue	5,829	6,245	6,859	From customers (fees, leases, utilities, fuel)
General Fund	1,918	1,825	<b>4090.9</b>	<b>\$2M needed from the GF for FY23 &amp; going forward</b>
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>7,747</b>	<b>8,070</b>	<b>10,949.9</b>	
200 Personal Services	2,294	2,707	2,907.3	
300 Contract Services	4,883	5,187	5,638.1	Expenses increase with tenant activities but are charged back.
400 Other Costs	2,119	2,467	2,404.5	
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>9,296</b>	<b>10,361</b>	<b>10,949.9</b>	
Fund Balance Used		291		
Supplemental	1,750	<b>2,000</b>	0	<b>*To replace GRT EPR</b>
<b>Result</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Fund Balance*</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>910</b>	

- SPA is approximately 60% customer funded but will need a **supplemental for FY22** to balance the budget.
- SPA is continuing to work to increase client revenue, but the **additional \$2M from the GF** is needed for future years as base funding to stabilize operations and meet contractual obligations

*\*Note that SPA has variable revenue and expenses and should **keep a minimum 5-10% Fund Balance** to stabilize from year-to-year to avoid customer service funding emergencies and to avoid multiple requests to the legislature.*

# SPACEPORT IMPACT

- Current private sector tenants provide more than 230 full-time jobs, with *indirect and induced jobs* exceeding 460+ (at 2 times multiplier), with an estimated payroll at over \$26M.
- In the last two years, tenant construction amounted to about \$60 million, with corresponding GRT generated
- Customer salaries, local spending, and services also added to collected GRT and state collected income taxes
- When Virgin Galactic achieves forecasted steady-state operations, there will be substantial additional employment, with concurrent increase in tourism
- Spaceport customers fill hotel rooms, add per diem, and spend other money in the local area throughout the year
- NMSA is working to attract new long-term tenants and short-term customers, and expects the spaceport's growth to be aligned with the quickly growing commercial space industry
- The spaceport helps sell NM as an entrepreneurial destination for the “new space” economy and helps create a complete aerospace ecosystem

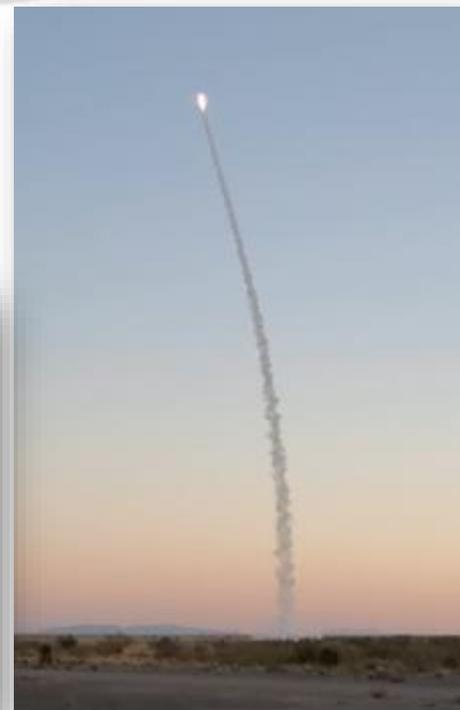
# GROWTH – NEXT FIVE YEARS

- Continue to work with Virgin Galactic to maximize economic impact
  - As Virgin Galactic moves toward 2 carrier aircraft and 5 spaceships, the region will see significant and consistent positive economic benefits
- Target appropriate markets and technologies, concentrate on tenants to increase private sector jobs, and help enable NM aerospace ecosystem
  - Continually update business development targets and operational plans as the commercial space marketplace continues to grow
  - Our current markets are test and development, suborbital flights, UAVs, engine testing
- Acquire FAA reentry license and work toward attracting viable partners
  - Suborbital point-to-point and orbital re-entry programs are upcoming markets and will be carefully and objectively considered, dimensioned, and cultivated
- What do we need from the SoNM?
  - Stability in our budget and in political support for the future of the spaceport.
  - Changes in GRT and other factors that seem to drive aerospace companies away
  - Continued capital improvement to keep building the site attractiveness

Spaceport America compares well against other spaceports.

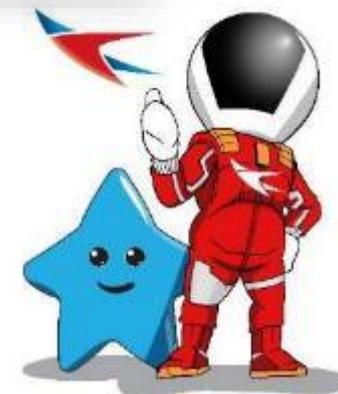
# THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT SPACEPORT AMERICA

## Questions?



Recent launch by  
U.S. Army  
West Point

- URL: [WWW.SPACEPORTAMERICA.COM](http://WWW.SPACEPORTAMERICA.COM)
- EMAIL: [SCOTT.MCLAUGHLIN@SPACEPORTAMERICA.COM](mailto:SCOTT.MCLAUGHLIN@SPACEPORTAMERICA.COM)
- MAIN PHONE: (575) 267-8500
- GOOGLE EARTH LINK TO SITE: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/Y4GRKVCA](https://tinyurl.com/y4grkvca)



THE SPACE TO BE...

# EXTRA SLIDES

The New Mexico Spaceport Authority shall:

- A. Encourage and foster development of the state and its cities and counties by **developing spaceport facilities** in New Mexico;
- B. Actively promote and assist public and private sector infrastructure development to attract new industries and businesses, thereby **creating new job opportunities** in the state;
- C. Create the statutory framework that will enable the state to **design, finance, construct, equip and operate spaceport facilities** necessary to ensure the timely, planned and efficient development of a southwest regional spaceport; and
- D. Promote educational involvement in spaceport activities and **education and training of the workforce** to develop the skills needed for spaceport operations.

Stipulated in the New Mexico Spaceport Development Act, 2005

- Approximately \$38M available
- In progress items include
  - Spaceport Operations Center (SOC) Repairs (\$1.2M)
  - Fabric Hangar Improvements (fire alarm, fire suppression, and HVAC) (\$800k)
  - Spaceport Technology and Reception Center (STARC) (\$10M)
  - Rocket Launch Rail (\$1.8M)
  - Vertical Launch Area Improvements (\$5M)
    - Roads, electricity, water, restrooms, rentable buildings, and concrete pads
  - General Purpose Hangar(s) (\$2M)
  - Master Plan (\$1M)

NM Statewide Pricing Agreement contractors are being utilized to access project management services to increase development and implementation speed.

# ICIP FY23 REQUEST



- \$20M – Spaceway Taxiway (2023)
- \$7.5M – General Infrastructure (2024/2027)
- \$5M – Warehouse/Light Duty Shops (2024)

# WHAT IS COMMERCIAL SPACE?

- Also known as “**New Space**” & “**Space 2.0**”
- DoD and NASA are becoming a customers, and investments are made by private companies and using venture capital
- The May 2020 SpaceX *Dragon* capsule was the first U.S. launched human spaceflight since 2011.
- The SpaceX *Dragon* flew again just a few days ago on September 16. The Inspiration 4 mission successfully completed a three-day flight that carried four citizen astronauts for the first time ever into Earth orbit.
- We now have Blue Origin’s *New Shepard*, Virgin Galactic’s *VSS Unity*, and SpaceX with the first non-NASA civilians in orbit
- In 2010, Apollo astronauts heavily criticized the move to commercial launch providers for astronauts, stressing the need for Federal involvement. It is amazing how quickly SpaceX and others have moved since then.
- With vertical and horizontal launch capability, remote wide-open spaces, and restricted airspace, **Spaceport America** is competitively well positioned, and becoming a premiere site for commercial aerospace operations



Business Insider  
The historic SpaceX launch of NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley  
By Washington Post Staff | May 30, 2020



Business Insider  
Watch: SpaceX Capsule With 4 Civilians Splashes Down to Earth



# SPACE ECONOMY

- **Morgan Stanley:** Space economy will be 1.7 trillion by 2040, <https://tinyurl.com/yh8dfnu2> (2019)
- **CNBC:** Space economy is ~\$420B and growing, <https://tinyurl.com/y2m3oh93> (July 2020)
- **Financial News Now:** References to continued and strong growth of the space industry; <https://tinyurl.com/yfjp5rop> (April 2021)
- **AP Article:** *60 years since 1st American in space: Tourists lining up*, <https://tinyurl.com/yjq9k8bf> (May 2021)
- **SpaceNews:** *Space industry in midst of transformation following record private and public investments*, <https://tinyurl.com/yejbx5h> (April 2021)
- Commercial space is where the internet was in the 1990's. New Mexico needs to be part of this technology sector. Other states are competing for the same business.

# U.S. SPACEPORTS

COMMERCIAL, GOVERNMENT, AND ACTIVE PRIVATE SPACEPORTS



## MAP LEGEND

- States with Current Spaceports Sites
- States with Potential Spaceport Sites
- 📍 FAA-Licensed Site
- ★ U.S. Federal Site
- 🚀 FAA-Licensed Reentry Site
- ◆ Exclusive Use Site (Non-FAA Licensed)

## FAA-LICENSED SITES

### LAUNCH HORIZONTAL

- 📍 Cecil Spaceport
- 📍 Colorado Air & Space Port
- 📍 Houston Spaceport
- 📍 Midland International Air & Space Port
- 📍 Mojave Air & Space Port

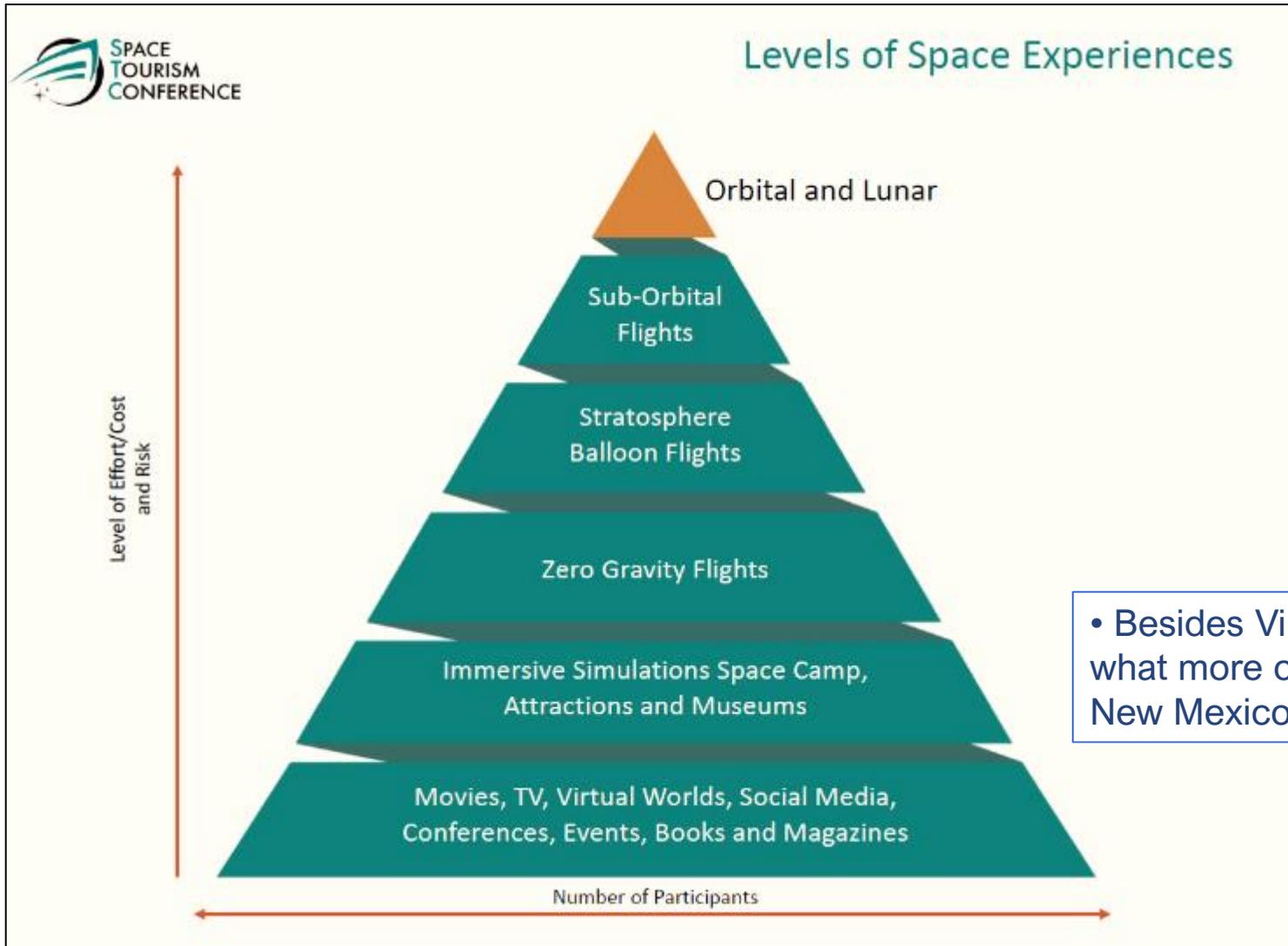
- 📍 Oklahoma Spaceport
- 📍 Space Coast Regional Airport
- 📍 Space Florida Launch & Landing Facility (SLF)
- 📍 Spaceport America

### LAUNCH VERTICAL

- 📍 Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport
- 📍 Pacific Spaceport Complex Alaska
- 📍 Space Florida Launch Complex 46
- 📍 Spaceport America

Source: FAA/AST June 2021

# SPACE TOURISM



# Space Consumer Tourism

