

Notes from Tuesday, January 13, 2009 Meeting of the Washington Space Business Roundtable

Ms. Gwynne Shotwell, President, Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX)

Notes are presented in reverse chronological order (that means read from the bottom up!).

- A: GS is taking day-to-day responsibilities from but he is still the visionary.
- Q: Facility in Hawthorne is very open. What other things lower costs? Also, are you taking over real responsibilities from Elon?
- Q: is SX interested in DoD market? A: Yes but EELV contract is closed until 2011.
- Q: what is timeline for COTS-D? A: 24 months is the proposed schedule, including crew escape and 3 demo flights.
- Was hard to find folks with 5-10 yrs experience. Can now hire anyone they want.
- Q: What are SX's workforce challenges? A: Challenges have changed over the years. SX can hire anyone they want out of college.
- Q: is there a plan to go to capital markets? A: NASA contract requires annual capitalization. Will result in eventual IPO.
- SX has to survive on revenues and investment. Very few tiers of overhead. Horizontal vehicle integration cuts costs too.
- A: Rates should meet industry standards within 10 flights or so. Q: why are costs so low? A: SX is very vertically integrated.
- Round of applause for COTS-D video. Q&A session. Q1: Are insurance premiums a good indication of F9's risk level?
- F9 went vertical on Jan 10. Now showing "COTS-D" video. All videos available on the SX website.
- Talking about Dragon. Presenting overview information. DragonLab is a "bus" for expts. Fabricating capsules, heat shields in-house.
- Showing pictures of F9 hardware (tanks, domes, engines, test stands, engine testing). Showing full duration 9-engine test video.
- F9 overview and description. About a \$40M vehicle. A full-size EELV-class 5m fairing to start. Hoping to recover 1st and 2nd stages.
- Round of applause for successful F1 flight 4 video!
- Recovery of Falcon1 (F1) first stage is a "science project". F1 video being shown.
- Falcon9 (F9) architected to be extremely reliable. Secured \$2B sales to date, 26 missions, on NASA Launch Services (NLS) contract.
- Designed, built, and began operating the Kwajalein (sp?) Launch site in under 6 months.
- She'll show pictures and video of hardware. Giving brief overview and history of SX.
- Larry making many comparisons (tongue in cheek) between GS and President-elect Obama. She'll make casual remarks and take lots of questions.
- Gwynne Shotwell (GS), president of SpaceX (SX) being introduced by Larry Williams.
- SpaceX donates computer projector to WSBR, becoming a Projector Sponsor!
- Getting ready to tweet notes for the Gwynne Shotwell presentation at the Washington Space Business Roundtable.