

# **COE CST Fifth Annual Technical Meeting**

## **Space Transportation Industry Viability**

**Dr. Scott Benjamin  
Taylor Smith  
Arion Gray**

*October 27-28, 2015  
Arlington, VA*



# Agenda

- Team Members
- Task Description
- Schedule
- Goals
- Results
- Conclusions and Future Work

# Team Members- People



Dr. Scott Benjamin



Principal Investigator-  
Associate Professor at  
Florida Institute of  
Technology, Director for  
the Center of  
Entrepreneurship and  
New Business

Taylor Smith



Student- Current  
Graduate Student  
Studying for her  
MBA, Expected  
Graduation is Fall  
2015

Arion Gray



Student- Current  
Undergraduate  
Student Studying  
Aerospace  
Engineering,  
Expected Graduation  
is Spring 2017

# Team Members- Partner



Greg Autry



Assistant Professor of Clinical Entrepreneurship at USC Marshall School of Business

# Task Description

- To understand the industry structure, conduct and performance of firms in the suborbital space transportation industry by using Porter's Five Forces Model to help develop a general understanding of profitability given the interaction of stakeholders.

# Schedule














Semester and Year	Completed Tasks
Fall 2014	Understanding the Industry Needs
Spring 2015	Literature Review and Data
Summer 2015	Interviews Conducted and Data Analyzed
Fall 2015	Interviews Conducted, Writing Conclusions and Publishing Results

# Goals

- To define the industry and its competitors
- Conduct a Porter's Five Forces analysis in order to evaluate competitive rivalry and industry profitability

# Results

## The Current Competitors Within The Industry

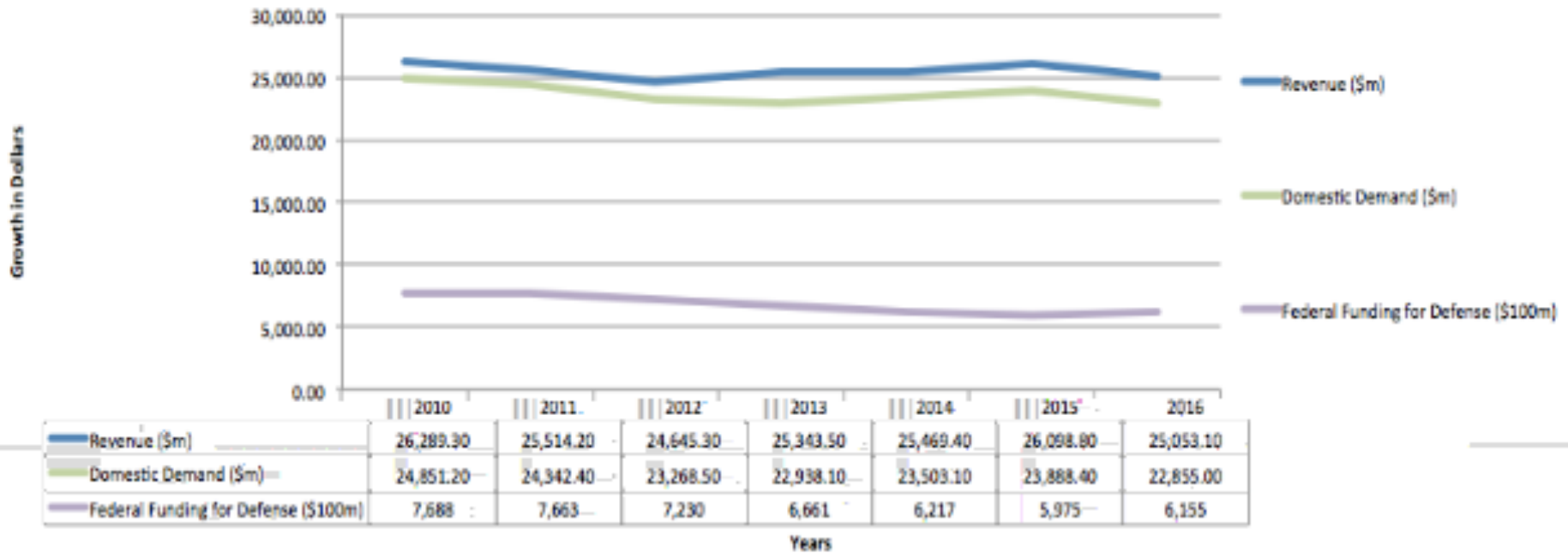
	 <small>CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION</small> SUBORBITAL SPACE COMPANIES	 GALACTIC	 BLUE ORIGIN	 WORLD VIEW®	 XCOR	 O1100	 zero g
	 <small>SPACESHIP TWO</small>	 <small>NEW SHEPARD</small>	 <small>VOYAGER</small>	 <small>LYRIC</small>	 <small>BALLOON</small>	 <small>G-FORCE ONE</small>	
MAX ALTITUDE	110 KM	110 KM	30 KM	103 KM	36 KM	9.8 KM	
FLIGHT DURATION	🕒 10 MIN	🕒 11 MIN	🕒 6 HOURS	🕒 60 MIN	🕒 3 HOURS	🕒 90 MIN	
MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	PLANE ROCKET	/ ROCKET	BALLOON	ROCKET ENGINE	BALLOON	PLANE	
CAPACITY	👤👤👤👤👤	👤👤👤👤👤	👤👤👤👤👤	👤👤	👤👤👤	27	
COST PER SEAT	\$250K	N/A	\$75K	\$150K	\$120K	\$5K	
PRE-SALES	600+	N/A	N/A	300+	N/A	500+	



# Results

## Industry Current and Future Growth

Space Vehicle and Missile Manufacturing in the US 2010-2015



# Results

## THREAT OF NEW ENTRANTS

FINANCIAL, REGULATORY AND PERCEIVED TECHNICAL AND MARKET RISKS PRESENT HIGH BARRIERS TO ENTRY. THE UNKNOWN NATURE OF INDUSTRY PROFITABILITY ALSO PRESENTS A HIGH BARRIER THUS REDUCING THE THREAT OF ENTRY BY NEW FIRMS.

### MAIN BARRIERS

- LARGE FINANCIAL CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS
- PERCEIVED TECHNICALS AND MARKET RISKS
- GOVERNMENT POLICIES & REGULATIONS
- ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

THREAT OF ENTRY: **LOW**

## POWER OF BUYERS

WITH FEW PROVIDERS OF SUBORBITAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND HIGHLY DIFFERENTIATED OFFERINGS, BUYERS HAVE LITTLE POWER TO NEGOTIATE PRICE OR TERMS.

### BUYER CHARACTERISTICS:

- SPACE ENTHUSIASTS DESIRE FOR THRILL AND EXCITEMENT IN SPACE
- SHORT FLIGHT DURATION LIMITING BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH
- COMMUNICATION AND SATELLITE COMPANIES LOOKING FOR EXPANSION

BUYER POWER: **LOW**

FEW SUPPLIERS SERVICE THIS NICHE MARKET. TECHNOLOGY IS CHANGING AT A RAPID PACE WHICH MAKES IT HARD FOR SUPPLIERS TO KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST DEMANDS. COMPETITIVE FIRMS EXHIBIT BACKWARDS VERTICAL INTEGRATION BY BRINGING COMPONENT PRODUCTION IN-HOUSE.

### SUPPLIER CHARACTERISTICS:

- FEW SUPPLIERS
- INTERNAL PROCESSING FOR EACH SUPPLIER
- EXCESSIVE IP RIGHTS

SUPPLIER POWER: **MODERATE**

## POWER OF SUPPLIERS

THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO ALTERNATIVE SUBSTITUTES THAT CAN MEET THE NEEDS PROVIDED BY SUBORBITAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION FOR EITHER THE TOURISM SEGMENT OR THE PAYLOAD SEGMENT

### SUBSTITUTE CHARACTERISTICS:

- FEW TRUE SUBSTITUTES
- SUBSTITUTES ARE MUCH LOWER IN COST

THREAT OF SUBSTITUTES: **LOW**

## THREAT OF SUBSTITUTES



# Conclusions

- Oligopolistic industry in nature
- Growth has remained flat within the industry, though the progression of commercial space flights could bring growth to the industry
- Rivalry among competitors will not be price competitive, instead they will compete on differentiation factors, such as flight path

# Conclusions and Future Work

- Future work
  - Industry Adoption: A Comparative Analysis Between Commercial Aviation and Commercial Space Transportation