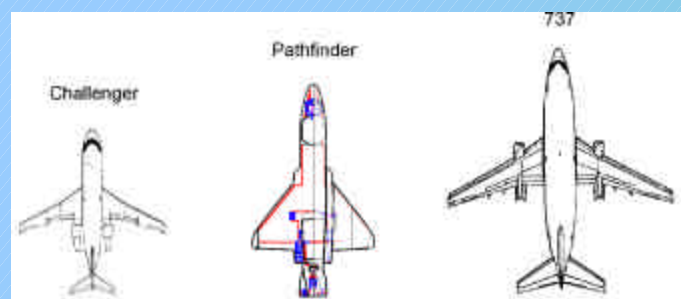


Proposed Action

The Proposed Action for this Environmental Impact Statement is for the FAA to issue a launch site operator license to the Oklahoma Space Industry Development Authority (OSIDA) to operate a commercial launch site at the Clinton-Sherman Industrial Airpark (CSIA) or an alternative site. The launch site operator license would be issued to launch (vertically or horizontally), reenter from orbit, land, and/or recover reusable launch vehicles (RLVs). The launch facility would provide a location to launch manned vehicles, satellites, and other payloads into sub-orbital trajectories, and eventually into prescribed orbits for commercial and government customers.

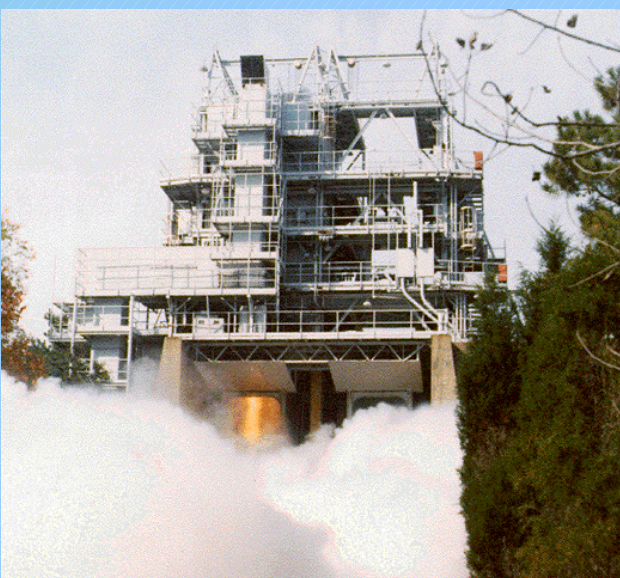
Horizontal Launch

The Pioneer Rocketplane XP design is typical of the horizontal takeoff and landing concept for sub-orbital vehicles (see figure at right). The vehicle is approximately business jet size, and would seat four people (see figure below-right). The vehicle takes off using turbofan engines and climbs to 30,000 feet where it activates the rocket engine and shuts down the jet engines. The vehicle can reach an altitude of 73 miles approximately three minutes after rocket ignition. The jet engines are restarted for a horizontal landing.



Vertical Launch

The SpaceDev vehicle is an example of the vertical launch concept. This type of vehicle would land at CSIA using a conventional horizontal landing approach. The SpaceDev vehicle resembles a smaller version of the Lockheed Martin X-33 with wings and landing gear to enable a horizontal landing (see figure below-right). The proposed propulsion system would use liquid oxygen/kerosene or liquid oxygen/ hydrogen fuel. The clear zone needed to launch rockets of this size is not expected to exceed three miles in diameter (see figure at left). Return to the launch site would occur without power. Other companies propose vertical launches with vertical landings.



Other Activities

The existing infrastructure at the CSIA could be modified to support static engine firings (see figure at left). The site could also support launch vehicle manufacturing, and other testing and manufacturing activities.

Decommissioning Activities

The CSIA is owned by the State of Oklahoma through OSIDA. In the event the facility was decommissioned, the state would return the facility to the City of Clinton.