

Camden County Chamber of Commerce

White Paper – Georgia Spaceport

February 6, 2013

There are currently no Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved and licensed commercial space launch sites in the United States. All low earth orbit rocket launches currently occur at federal ranges. The commercial space industry is seeking independent commercial launch sites away from federal ranges to facilitate their corporate activities. There are currently three applications being processed by FAA for private commercial launch sites in the United States: a site in Brownsville, Texas, Florida (Shiloh launch complex) and a site in Camden County, Georgia.

The Camden County Joint Development Authority (JDA), with assistance from the Board of County Commissioners, Office of Commercial Space Transportation-Federal Aviation Administration, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, local governments, and commercial space companies, is pursuing development of a commercial space launch site in Camden County, Georgia. The JDA has identified a prime site with a history of space activity that was **a former solid rocket motor testing facility for Thiokol in the 1960's**. The JDA is engaged in negotiations with the property owner and is seeking to acquire and license the site for development of an aerospace industrial park to become a commercial launch site.

Recommendation:

Financial and staff support for this aerospace project from the Executive and Legislative branches, said support including:

1. A financial partnership between the State and community to explore this project. The initial work of this partnership will be to fund the requisite studies, land acquisition and permits necessary to entitle and facilitate the project.
2. Designate site area as an "Opportunity Zone".
3. Legislation to provide incentives to recruit space companies to the project and limit the liability associated with their operations; and
4. Explore the formation of a Georgia Spaceport Advisory Council to assist the community in its efforts to develop, license, and manage a space complex.