

NASA AND SPACE CENTRE AUSTRALIA PARTNER TO ADVANCE AIR-LAUNCH TECHNOLOGY FROM WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Richmond, VA / Wallops Island, VA / Weipa, QLD

Space Centre Australia LLC (SCA) – SCA’s U.S.-flagged company based in Virginia – and NASA have officially entered into a Space Act Agreement to advance horizontal air-launch vehicle testing at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, USA. This significant international collaboration marks a milestone for SCA LLC as it accelerates development of next-generation space access capabilities for both government and commercial customers.

Under the reimbursable agreement, SCA LLC will conduct inert (non-propellant) flight testing and utilize Wallops Flight Facility airfield operations. These activities support the company’s airborne launch platform development, featuring a modified C-130J Super Hercules aircraft capable of deploying payloads of up to 250 kilograms into low Earth orbit (LEO).

SCA LLC’s horizontal launch capability—developed under its flagship *Project Karman Line*— and under license with UK Firm Orbit Boy Ltd represents a unique commercial opportunity for agile, responsive launch services directly from an airborne platform.

“Partnering with NASA on Project Karman Line is a testament to the innovation and global outlook that drives our mission,” said **James Palmer**, CEO of Space Centre Australia. “This agreement is a major validation of our air-launch concept using the C-130J, and enables us to test, refine, and prove our systems in a world-class environment. More importantly, it reinforces our commitment to building enduring partnerships that strengthen both regional and global space ecosystems. We’re proud to be working alongside NASA, the Virginia Spaceport Authority, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and the Accomack County community to help foster aerospace growth and create high-tech jobs in Virginia and abroad.”

“This agreement represents a key milestone for SCA as we secure strategic partnerships with premier global institutions like NASA,” said **The Hon. Scott Morrison**, former Prime Minister of Australia and Chairman of Space Centre Australia. “Our work in Virginia will showcase our growing technical capabilities.”

SCA LLC’s activities are now underway at NASA Wallops Flight Facility, and the company is in discussions with Virginia Spaceport Authority to explore manufacturing and other opportunities that will benefit the Commonwealth of Virginia to support future operations.



About NASA Wallops Flight Facility

Founded in 1945, NASA's Wallops Flight Facility is celebrating its 80th year of launch operations. The site serves as a multi-user, multi-tenant test and launch range supporting over 50 science and technology missions each year, including suborbital rockets, scientific balloons, and orbital launches. Wallops is a critical hub for U.S. Department of Defense, NASA, and commercial aerospace activities.

For more information on programs at Wallops, visit: www.nasa.gov/wallops

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