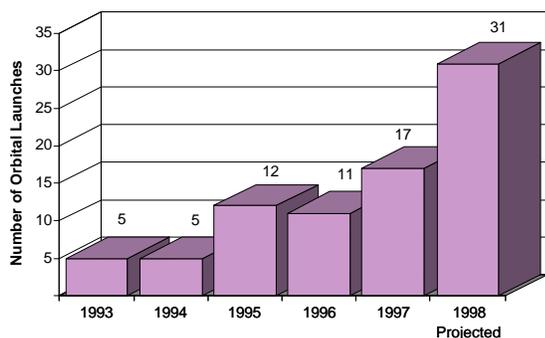


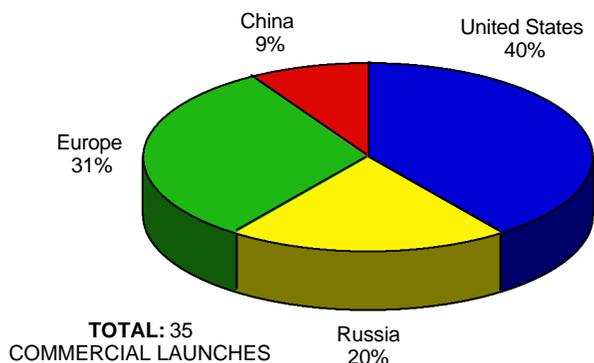
FAA-LICENSED LAUNCHES HIT RECORD HIGH IN 1997

In 1997, U.S. launch service providers conducted a record 17 FAA-licensed launches, an increase of 55 percent over 1996 and more than three times the number of launches conducted five years ago. As many as 31 FAA-licensed launches are scheduled for 1998, an increase of 82 percent over 1997's record number of launches. There have been 84 licensed launches since the first was conducted in 1989.



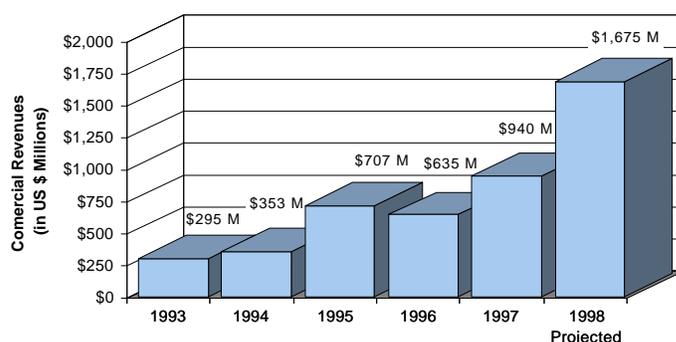
U.S. LEADS WORLD IN COMMERCIAL MARKET

The United States captured 40 percent of the world market for commercial space transportation in 1997, more than any other nation. Of the 35 internationally competed launches conducted in 1997, U.S. providers conducted 14 (out of 17 FAA-licensed launches); Europe's Arianespace conducted 11; Russian launch providers conducted 7, including six launches of Proton marketed by Lockheed Martin and one of START-1; and China's Long March conducted 3 commercial launches. The 35 internationally competed launches conducted in 1997 represents a 67 percent increase over the 21 conducted worldwide in 1996.



U.S. COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION REVENUES SOAR

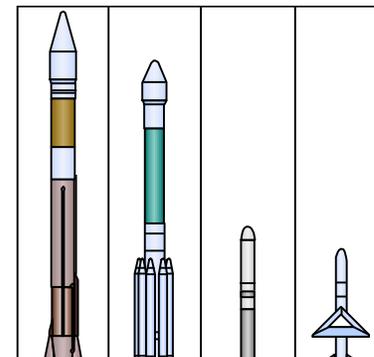
Revenues from FAA-licensed launches soared to \$940 million in 1997, an increase of 48 percent over 1996 revenues of \$635 million. Over the past five years, revenues have increased by more than a factor of three, up from \$295 million in 1993. Revenues for 1998 FAA-licensed commercial space launches are projected to be as high as \$1.7 billion.



NEW LAUNCH AND SPACEPORT LICENSES ISSUED

The FAA issued seven new launch operator licenses and license renewals in 1997, bringing the total number of licenses issued to 38. In addition, the FAA issued two launch site operator licenses. One license was issued to the Spaceport Florida Authority to operate a launch site at Cape Canaveral, Florida, and one was issued to the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority to operate a launch site at Wallop's Island, Virginia.

1997 FAA-LICENSED LAUNCH VEHICLES



	Atlas 2	Delta II	Athena-1	Pegasus
Name	Atlas 2	Delta II	Athena-1	Pegasus
1997 Launches	6	7	1	3
FAA-Licensed	6	7	1	3
Total	8	11	1	5
Capability (lbs)				
LEO	19,050	11,220	1,760	1,015
GTO	8,150	4,060	--	--



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