

Boeing to Return Delta IV to Comsat Market

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According to 3/24/05 Wall Street Journal, Dan Collins, VP of Boeing ELV business, said that Delta IV will be offered once again for commercial comsat launches by the end of 2005. Boeing had held the rocket out of the commercial market since mid 2003.

The gist of the story is that the Air Force, which has poured out gobs of extra money to support both EELVs, has been pressuring Boeing to get commercial money flowing into the Delta IV program. Lockheed's commercial success with Atlas V is making the EELV setup a bit lopsided, requiring Boeing to ask for more Pentagon money than Lockheed to keep EELV afloat.

The report says that post-Stonecipher Boeing has decided to make a real effort to return its space divisions to profitability. The company has stopped its announced Decatur layoffs and is expected to win roughly half of the lucrative EELV-pie up for grabs this year.

– Ed Kyle