

Re: commercial uses of the Dtick and the Heavy Lifter

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2005-10/msg00318.html>

- *From:* Josh Hill <usereplyto@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 05 Oct 2005 18:13:12 -0400
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On Wed, 05 Oct 2005 21:21:08 GMT, simberg.interglobal@xxxxxxxx (Rand Simberg) wrote:

>On Wed, 05 Oct 2005 14:15:38 -0400, in a place far, far away, Josh
>Hill <usereplyto@xxxxxxxx> made the phosphor on my monitor glow in
>such a way as to indicate that:
>
>>>>>Do note that unless it has a *lot* more payload than commercial launchers,
>>>>>or is unique in some other significant way, it is illegal for NASA to
>>>>>attempt to market it commercially or to subsidize an attempt by a NASA
>>>>>contractor to do so. NASA is specifically forbidden, by post-Challenger
>>>>>law, to compete with commercial launch providers (even for its own needs,
>>>>>never mind on the open market).
>>>>>
>>>>>Which once seemed to me a sensible prohibition, but now seems to me
>>>>>foolish, since it reduces utilization.
>>>>>
>>>>>So NASA should once again wreck the commercial launch industry by
>>>>>competing against it with taxpayer-subsidized systems?
>>
>>The commercial launch industry is already competing against
>>taxpayer-subsidized systems from Russia, China, and the EU, and with
>>the handicap of a manipulated exchange rate.
>
>So why should we make it even worse (and add insult to injury) by
>competing against them with their own tax dollars?

Well, zero from zero is zero. I'm not sure how NASA can compensate for the Federal Government's failure to do something about the exchange rate and anti-competitive subsidies. Using EELV's would help a bit, but only a bit, because it wouldn't help the big guys attract satellite customers. So would an offer to buy launches from the company that could meet their mission requirements at the lowest cost, which might help startups gain venture capital. But if we can't or won't get the Russians, Chinese, and Europeans to compete on equal grounds, I say we compete on their grounds and outdo them.

Re: commercial uses of the Dtick and the Heavy Lifter

Josh

"It was amazing I won. I was running against peace and prosperity and incumbency." – George W. Bush

• **Follow-Ups:**

- ◆ **Re: commercial uses of the Dtick and the Heavy Lifter**
◇ From: Henry Spencer
- ◆ **Re: commercial uses of the Dtick and the Heavy Lifter**
◇ From: Rand Simberg

• **References:**

- ◆ **commercial uses of the Dtick and the Heavy Lifter**
◇ From: Herm
- ◆ **Re: commercial uses of the Dtick and the Heavy Lifter**
◇ From: Brian Thorn
- ◆ **Re: commercial uses of the Dtick and the Heavy Lifter**
◇ From: Ed Kyle
- ◆ **Re: commercial uses of the Dtick and the Heavy Lifter**
◇ From: Henry Spencer
- ◆ **Re: commercial uses of the Dtick and the Heavy Lifter**
◇ From: Josh Hill
- ◆ **Re: commercial uses of the Dtick and the Heavy Lifter**
◇ From: Rand Simberg

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