

ballistic package delivery

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2007-01/msg00198.html>

- *From:* "Williamknowsbest" <William.Mook@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 6 Jan 2007 03:33:09 -0800
-

A decade ago I proposed that sub-orbital rockets be used to deliver pizza. This at a time when there was great furor over Pizza Hut's delivery in 30 minutes or less or its free. Lots of pizza delivery folks were getting in accidents and so forth, since Pizza Hut was taking the free pizza's out of their limited salary! I showed where a centrally located pizza kitchen in Kansas could deliver pizza and drinks anywhere in North America in about 5 minutes. I even opined that control of the thermal profile during re-entry could finish baking a pizza so it arrives just out of the oven fresh. Drinks could be stored in a way so that the venting of cryogenic propellants would keep them bone chilling cold. Advanced GPS guidance – similar to JDAMs which would come later – would deliver payloads precisely, and the re-entry vehicle could even land on an outdoor table and the lid would pop off revealing a hot pizza, and cold beers would roll down the landing gear to stop at the footpad.

This fanciful idea has been studied more seriously recently by an MIT graduate; Jared Martin, who now works at The Aerospace Corporation. Good job!

I received my Masters of Engineering in Aeronautics and Astronautics from MIT in 1999. My thesis was titled, "Exploring Fast Package Delivery from a Systems Perspective," and was a collaborative effort with the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Emery Worldwide, and UPS. Fast Package Delivery refers to the delivery of precious cargo over intercontinental distances in a matter of hours, and provides a potential market to help offset the enormous costs associated with the development and operation of Reusable Launch Vehicles.

While Jared focused on precious cargo, its a step in the right direction. Sending things across town or around the world ballistically is energetically favored over dragging it through the air or across the land or sea. Compare tossing a baseball across the field to rolling it across the field.

With low cost disposable propulsive skins powered by Earth bound and space based lasers, which are part of a beamed power system for the planet (powernet) it is a certainty that ballistic transport and package delivery systems will be common place on this world at some

ballistic package delivery

point in the future.