



**PRESS RELEASE
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**SECOND ANNUAL NEW MEXICO STUDENT LAUNCH
TO RECEIVE MISSION ASSURANCE**

LAS CRUCES, NM – To assure a successful Student Launch from Spaceport America on Tuesday, May 4, 2010, the New Mexico Space Grant Consortium (NMSGC) has teamed up with leading aerospace companies for the past three months, according to NMSGC Director Dr. Patricia Hynes.

For the past three months, UP Aerospace, the designer and builder of the SpaceLoft rocket, and their business partner Lockheed Martin have been checking the rocket's avionics systems and providing support for the recovery systems design and testing. Schafer Corporation and the Operationally Responsive Space office in New Mexico have been involved with the problem solving and avionics testing procedures since last July's SL-3 flight. By doing this, Dr. Patricia Hynes is working to provide a higher level of success than in previous launches.

As part of the mission assurance activities, UP Aerospace successfully conducted a full-scale recovery system drop-test at Spaceport America on April 14, 2010. A parachute expert from Lockheed Martin was onsite as part of the ongoing collaborative mission success effort. "We are very fortunate to have such great business partners who are eager to help this educational space program succeed in New Mexico," said Jerry Larson, President of UP Aerospace. Larson went on to say, "The program that Pat Hynes and her staff have created is an outstanding educational initiative that is inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers through actual space-flown and recovered experiments." A video of this test is available online at:

<http://www.launchnm.com/videosphp.php>

The NMSGC's mission is to promote space programs and education to New Mexico students and educators. The SL-4 launch vehicle will carry experiments designed and created by New Mexico students into space, allowing them hands-on experience with the design and implementation of scientific payloads.

The Education Launch is open to the public by reservation via coach transportation for \$20 per person. Registrants can go online to: www.launchnn.com to reserve space and make payment. No private vehicles are allowed to the launch site.

The NMSGC is a member of the congressionally funded National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program that is administered by NASA and sponsored by New Mexico State University. The program promotes and inspires lifelong learning in areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics as it pertains to space-related activities. The consortium supports a wide range of projects and scholarship opportunities, including the Student Launch Program. New Mexico students build multi-sensor electronic experiments that use the environment of sub-orbital space to further their hands-on scientific and engineering experience.

— 30 —

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