

Lockheed Martin Astronautics
Denver Operations
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Jan. 25, 2000

Department of Transportation
400 7th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C.

Attn: Mr. George Wellington, Chief

This letter is submitted in support of Lockheed Martin Astronautics (LMA) need for the services of a Heavylift An124-100 Cargo Aircraft to transport one Centaur IIIA Upper Stage Launch Vehicle payload from Denver International Airport to Cape Canaveral Air Station, Fla. on February 16, 2000.

The launch vehicle payload in its shipping configuration measures 46'6" long, 11'8" wide, 11'8" high. The LMA Centaur IIA launch vehicle and associated support equipment weighs approximately 44,000 pounds and cannot be accommodated by domestic commercial carrier aircraft.

Due to the delicate nature, extreme high value, and risks inherent with surface transport, we cannot use surface transportation. LMA technical evaluation of the conditions seen during over-the-road transport places the launch vehicles in conditions that are deemed unsuitable to maintaining system integrity compliance.

LMA is shipping the launch vehicle to Cape Canaveral, Florida to complete an aggressive schedule that includes integration activities and subsequent launch processing. The initial launch capability is planned for April 14, 2000.

In order to prepare for the April 14, 2000 launch from Cape Canaveral, the launch vehicle must ship from Denver International Airport no later than February 16, 2000. This will enable us to complete mission integration activities within the limited time available.

If additional information is required please contact me at once.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B.D. Worthington".

B. D. Worthington
Lockheed Martin Astronautics
Airlift Integration