

Lockheed Martin Astronautics  
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**LOCKHEED MARTIN**



March 04, 2002

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

Attn: Mr. George Wellington, Chief

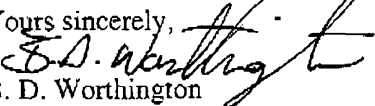
This letter is submitted in support of Lockheed Martin Astronautics (LMA) need for the services of a Volga-Dnepr AN-124-100 Cargo Aircraft to transport two each Atlas V Payload Fairing Containers from Denver International Airport to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. on March 11, 2002.

Each container in its shipping configuration measures 66.7' long, 20.6' wide, 12' high. The LMA Atlas V PLF Container and associated support equipment weighs approximately 82,000 kg 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 containers in conditions that are deemed unsuitable to maintaining system integrity compliance.

LMA is shipping the containers to Cape Canaveral, Florida to complete an aggressive schedule that includes 1<sup>st</sup> flight article receipt and subsequent launch processing. The initial receipt for these articles is March 27, 2002

In order to prepare for the March 27, 2002 receipt at Cape Canaveral, the containers must ship from Denver International Airport no later than March 18, 2002. 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,  
  
B. D. Worthington  
Lockheed Martin Astronautics  
Manager, Launch Vehicle Move Operations