



GOLDEN SPIKE LAUNCH REMARKS BY GERALD ("GERRY") D. GRIFFIN

Golden Spike Board Chair

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Good afternoon, everyone. I want to echo Cindy's remarks and welcome you here today. We're excited to tell you about Golden Spike.

But before we do that, I want to mention that tonight will be the 40th anniversary of the launch of Apollo 17, the last human expedition to the Moon. I am a veteran of Apollo. In fact, I was the lead flight director of three Apollo lunar surface missions, including Apollo 17, and worked on many others.

What the United States of America accomplished with Apollo was historic: The first exploration of another world by human beings. In the 1960s and early 1970s, it took the economic and technical knowhow of an entire nation to accomplish that. But in the intervening 40 years, space technology—and the space business—have progressed very far.

Building on the experience base and technological advances that NASA generated with Apollo, Skylab, Shuttle, and now the International Space Station, plus NASA's spectacularly successful program of robotic planetary exploration, we now live in an era in which the technology and experience base is available for the commercial sector to also explore space.

As a result, we are in the midst of a historic era for commercial space flight. Although the commercial spaceflight actually began in the 1960s with communications satellites, it has now grown to include everything from commercial land remote sensing services, to commercial suborbital space lines carrying passengers to companies like Moon Express that plan to mine resources on the Moon. Commercial spaceflight today also includes commercial space launch and Station cargo resupply companies like SpaceX, and commercial companies planning to fly their own crew capsules and space stations.

Today, we're here to tell you some things about a new entrant in this burgeoning commercial space industry, our company, The Golden Spike Company.

Golden Spike's roots were grown in 2010 when our CEO, Dr. Alan Stern, asked a group of experienced space engineers, scientists, and business people, supported by a number of well known space companies, to come together to study whether commercial human lunar exploration could be undertaken at commercially viable prices, by using existing or in-development space systems to the maximum extent possible.

The wide-ranging group of experts that Alan put together conducted a formal study that culminated in August of 2010 in a more or less secret meeting in Telluride, Colorado. In Telluride, findings were presented to a group of independent reviewers that included the likes of Wayne Hale, the former head of NASA's Space Shuttle program, Jeff Ashby, an aerospace executive and former NASA Space Shuttle commander, Dr. Bill McKinnon, an accomplished planetary scientist, and Dr. Peter Banks and Ms. Ester Dyson, well known and influential investors and investment advisors in the commercial space industry. The findings of the Telluride study group, and vetted by the independent review I just described, was that the time is ripe for commercial human lunar exploration, and that it can be accomplished at prices low enough to

create a marketplace made up of countries and corporations already able to afford robotic flagship missions!

Three months later, The Golden Spike Company was officially formed to market and provide affordable, turn-key, human lunar expeditions. By turn-key, we mean that Golden Spike will provide a complete service, including vehicles we procure, regulatory approvals, mission planning, mission operations, and crew training; even flight experiments will be provided if the customer so desires.

Our vision is to create a reliable and affordable U.S.-based commercial human lunar transportation system that enables the exploration of the Moon by humans from virtually any nation, corporation, or individual wishing to accomplish objectives on the Moon—including activities based around science, around business, around national prestige, and personal accomplishment. We further plan to create and monetize wide-scale participatory involvement in Golden Spike lunar expeditions, something we will have more to say about later. These are big goals worthy of a new century and an American space industry that has led the world for 50 years.

We are a start up company with a long road ahead, and today we're making public some of what had been secret about Golden Spike. To do that, we'll be opening our web site up soon at www.goldenspikeco.com, and we're releasing a fact sheet and other materials about the company, our mission, and our plans.

Now to tell you more about Golden Spike, I want to introduce our CEO, Dr. Alan Stern. Alan is a planetary scientist who has been involved in 26 separate space missions, including, for example New Horizons, a breakthrough mission in low cost outer solar system exploration now well on its way to a historic exploration of Pluto and the Kuiper Belt in mid-2015. Alan also built one of the largest planetary science groups in the world, from scratch, pioneered the conduct of astronomy from high performance fighter jets, and he is the principal investigator of the world's first research effort involving scientists who will fly in space on commercial suborbital spacecraft. Alan is a former member of the NASA Advisory Council, and in 2007 and 2008 he directed NASA's entire science effort from NASA Headquarters here in Washington, where he was the Agency's Associate Administrator responsible for leading NASA's \$5 billion dollar per year Science Mission Directorate.

But I do want to say one more thing before Alan speaks. There have been some pretty wild speculations about Golden Spike on the web in the past few days. Some involve rumors about investors, others involve rumors about customers who have already signed contracts. For example, I've read that Warren Buffet is involved. Let me just say that we're at an earlier stage in the development of this company than some people think! But if any of you know do know Warren Buffet, I would be grateful for you point him my way...

Now, for some facts to replace the fiction-fact mix out there on the Internet, please welcome Alan Stern.