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AIAA Releases Important Guidelines for RLV Design

WASHINGTON, D.C., 29 April 2005 – AIAA is pleased to announce the release of a *Guide to the Identification of Safety-Critical Hardware Items for Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Developers*. This document was developed over the course of the last two years through strong cooperation between representatives of the commercial spaceflight industry and the government agency responsible for its regulation. It is intended to provide guidelines for the identification of potentially safety-critical hardware items in RLV designs. Possible risk-mitigating design strategies that may be incorporated into vehicle designs are also included.

Initiated and sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Commercial Space Transportation (FAA/AST), the document is the product of a unique cooperative effort between government and industry, with AIAA serving as a facilitator. Dedicated technical experts from a number of aerospace organizations met regularly to define a process that a new RLV developer can use to identify possible safety hazards inherent in a design. The process was derived from accepted industry practices and should benefit both industry and government by providing a common baseline to assess vehicle safety.

The document is freely available for download through the AIAA website at: <http://www.aiaa.org/content.cfm?pageid=593> and through the FAA/AST website at: <http://ast.faa.gov>.

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