

# **Memorandum of Understanding**

## **Between:**

New Mexico Spaceport Authority (**NMSA**), aka Spaceport America

and

Experimental Sounding Rocket Association (**ESRA**)

and

Tripoli Rocketry Association (**TRA**)

## **Purpose**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between NMSA, ESRA, and TRA relating to conducting the annual Spaceport America Cup.

## **Coordination/Liaison**

TRA will designate a representative to attend ESRA Board of Directors meetings and independently oversee TRA participation in Cup activities. This TRA representative will provide recommendations and guidance on launch operations to ensure compliance with all TRA safety rules and regulations. This representative will also be the board liaison to ensure appropriate and open communications between TRA and the other organizations.

## **Financials**

Student teams are at their own discretion to pay for TRA memberships for their student team members. That does not change the requirement for TRA membership as required. This is clearly outlined in the Rules and Regulations. Student teams are highly encouraged to financially support mentors who are in TRA to aid them in safely competing. ESRA will make every effort to assist with financial support when and where applicable for TRA members, explicitly attending to help with launch operation safety.

**Actions:**

- **Student membership in TRA -**

Starting for the 2023 Spaceport America Cup, ESRA will direct all Solid and Hybrid category (Commercial and Research) student teams to engage TRA for membership and certification requirements. TRA membership is required to be on the range or to work on safety-related systems for the rocket. Motors and energetic materials may only be possessed or handled by TRA members with appropriate high-power rocketry certification. TRA certification is highly recommended for all team members. A certified Level 3 team mentor or student member is required for their teams to launch under TRA Launch rules and insurance. The TRA membership application link will be included in the Spaceport America Cup application.

- **Student Team Liability Insurance -**

All activities in the Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) or Student Researched and Designed (SRAD) Solid or Hybrid categories shall comply with Tripoli Unified Safety Code requirements to be covered by TRA insurance. All teams with **Non-Tripoli Safety Code Compliant Launches** must arrange their insurance in advance of the Spaceport America Cup.

- **TRA will receive an "in-kind" sponsorship package each year – NMSA will provide Tripoli with a sponsorship package at the \$10k level in exchange for the services listed herein. Sponsorship package amounts and benefits may vary by year.** The sponsorship package provided to Tripoli will always include tickets to all of the events and booth space at the event.

**Duration**

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized representatives from the Boards of Directors of ESRA, TRA, or Spaceport America leadership at any time and without penalty, up to 31 days before the Spaceport America Cup. The MOU will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the participating groups with 30-day written notice.

**Certified Level 3 Flyer of Record for Commercial (COTS) and Research Solid and Hybrid Teams**

Each flight must have a current Tripoli member with Level 3 certification as its Flyer of Record. The Flyer of Record may be selected by one of the following methods:

- **Recommended** – A Level 3 Certified TRA Team mentor who has applicable knowledge and experience and who can be present at the launch
- **Also Recommended** - L3 certified Student Team member
- **Final Option (primarily for international teams who do not have access to TRA prefectures)** - ESRA will attempt to coordinate an appropriate L3-certified TRA Senior member, who will virtually mentor the team throughout the year and will be present for the final flight safety inspections.



### Changes to Safety Rules and Launch Operations Policy

TRA must be part of any discussions regarding future changes to competitions, rules, etc., involving solid or hybrid propellants due to the safety code and flyers' experience/trends. This shall be done before any finalization or publication of competition changes.

Accordingly, any changes to TRA rules that may impact Spaceport America Cup competition operations shall be communicated to the ESRA board as soon as possible. ESRA/Spaceport America will make every effort to implement changes as quickly and efficiently as possible.


### Segregating the Non-Tripoli Safety Code Compliant Launches

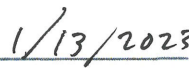
- The **Non-Tripoli Safety Code Compliant** launch site shall be separated from all other operations and spectator areas by a minimum of 1,500'.
- Launch operations for **Non-Tripoli Safety Code Compliant flights** shall be conducted by entirely different personnel than those operating the TRA-compliant operations.
- NMSA and ESRA will hold TRA harmless from all liability for damages caused by **Non-Tripoli Safety Code Compliant Launches**.
- ESRA shall curtail all other launch operations when **Non-Tripoli Safety Code Compliant** projects are in preparation, final pre-flight, launching, or recovery phases of activity.
- ESRA is responsible for clearly establishing a visible delineation between the TRA launches and the **Non-Tripoli Safety Code Compliant Launches**.
- **Non-Tripoli Safety Code Compliant** student teams are responsible for their insurance policies.

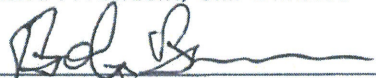
  
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NMSA Executive Director, Scott McLaughlin

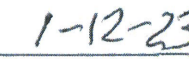
Jan. 15, 2023

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Date

  
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ESRA President, Cliff Olmsted

  
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Date

  
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TRA Rocketry Association President, Bob Brown

  
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