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§ 14701. Definitions

For purposes of this chapter—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(2) the term “commercial provider” means any person providing space transportation services or other space-related activities, primary control of which is held by persons other than Federal, State, local, and foreign governments;

(3) the term “payload” means anything that a person undertakes to transport to, from, or within outer space, or in suborbital trajectory, by means of a space transportation vehicle, but does not include the space transportation vehicle itself except for its components which are specifically designed or adapted for that payload;

(4) the term “space-related activities” includes research and development, manufacturing, processing, service, and other associated and support activities;

(5) the term “space transportation services” means the preparation of a space transportation vehicle and its payloads for transportation to, from, or within outer space, or in suborbital trajectory, and the conduct of transporting a payload to, from, or within outer space, or in suborbital trajectory;

(6) the term “space transportation vehicle” means any vehicle constructed for the purpose of operating in, or transporting a payload to, from, or within, outer space, or in suborbital trajectory, and includes any component of such vehicle not specifically designed or adapted for a payload;

(7) the term “State” means each of the several States of the Union, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any other commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States; and

(8) the term “United States commercial provider” means a commercial provider, organized under the laws of the United States or of a State, which is—

(A) more than 50 percent owned by United States nationals; or

(B) a subsidiary of a foreign company and the Secretary of Transportation finds that—

(i) such subsidiary has in the past evidenced a substantial commitment to the United States market through—

(I) investments in the United States in long-term research, development, and

manufacturing (including the manufacture of major components and subassemblies); and

(II) significant contributions to employment in the United States; and

(ii) the country or countries in which such foreign company is incorporated or organized, and, if appropriate, in which it principally conducts its business, affords reciprocal treatment to companies described in subparagraph (A) comparable to that afforded to such foreign company’s subsidiary in the United States, as evidenced by—

(I) providing comparable opportunities for companies described in subparagraph (A) to participate in Government sponsored research and development similar to that authorized under this chapter;

(II) providing no barriers, to companies described in subparagraph (A) with respect to local investment opportunities, that are not provided to foreign companies in the United States; and

(III) providing adequate and effective protection for the intellectual property rights of companies described in subparagraph (A).

(Pub. L. 105-303, §2, Oct. 28, 1998, 112 Stat. 2843.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 105-303, Oct. 28, 1998, 112 Stat. 2843, known as the Commercial Space Act of 1998. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out below and Tables.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 105-303, §1(a), Oct. 28, 1998, 112 Stat. 2843, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter and sections 70120 and 70121 of Title 49, Transportation, amending sections 2465c and 2465f of this title, sections 5621, 5622, and 5803 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade, and sections 70101 to 70106, 70108 to 70113, 70115, 70117, and 70119 of Title 49, repealing sections 2465b, 2465d, and 2465e of this title, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 70105 of Title 49] may be cited as the ‘Commercial Space Act of 1998’.”

SUBCHAPTER I—PROMOTION OF COMMERCIAL SPACE OPPORTUNITIES

§ 14711. Commercialization of Space Station

(a) Policy

The Congress declares that a priority goal of constructing the International Space Station is the economic development of Earth orbital space. The Congress further declares that free and competitive markets create the most efficient conditions for promoting economic development, and should therefore govern the economic development of Earth orbital space. The Congress further declares that the use of free market principles in operating, servicing, allocating the use of, and adding capabilities to the Space Station, and the resulting fullest possible engagement of commercial providers and participation of commercial users, will reduce Space Station operational costs for all partners and the Federal Government’s share of the United States burden to fund operations.