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NASA's big competition, now being investigated

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Federal action turning over a workhorse satellite launcher to private industry has touched off a space trade war that has an American company crying foul.

As a result, U.S. Trade Representative William E. Brock has begun an investigation into the pricing practices of Arianespace, the French firm that is offering the unmanned Ariane rocket to companies and governments with satellites to launch.

Not only does Ariane compete with NASA's space shuttle, but it is seeking business of the type that used to be handled by NASA's reliable Delta rocket.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, at the urging of President Reagan, turned over the Delta satellite launching program in May to Transpace Carriers Inc., a company formed specifically to market and launch Deltas.

But Transpace has yet to sign up a customer, although spokesman Dennis Ahern said the company is negotiating with several potential customers.

The company blames Arianespace for its troubles, claiming that the French firm is engaged in "predatory pricing," cutting prices for launch services to American customers 25 percent to 33 percent below charges for similar services to European customers.

Transpace asked President Reagan to seek an end to such a two-

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tiered pricing policy and, in the meantime, to retaliate by prohibiting Arianespace from advertising and marketing its services in the United States, and by imposing economic sanctions on French goods and services.

Brock's office agreed July 9 to investigate the Transpace complaint under Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act. The agency by law must report its findings to the president by next July, at which time the president will have 21 days in which to act.

Jacqueline Schenkel, a spokeswoman for Arianespace, said the company has no comment at this time on the action.

The European Space Agency, which developed the Ariane, said in a memo filed to the trade office that the practices and policies followed by the members of ESA "are in no way unreasonable ... nor do these practices/policies in any way affect the economic interests of the United States."

Transpace estimates the market for satellite launch services through the next decade will total as much as \$10 billion. Much of that satellite launching business will go to the space shuttle, but Ariane has demonstrated that some companies will opt for flights into orbit atop unmanned rockets like the Delta and Ariane.

ESA developed Ariane to free Western Europe from dependence on the United States for satellite launching services. Arianespace took over operations after the rocket's eighth flight.

French shareholders own 59.25 percent of the company and West German shareholders account for 19.6 percent. Other shareholders providing less than 5 percent of the company's capital, represent Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland.

Seven of the nine Arianes have been launched so far have been successful, including the May 22 orbiting of a communications satellite owned by the GTE Spacenet Corp. of McLean, Va. Spacenet was the first American satellite to be launched outside of the United States.

The Delta, built by McDonnell Douglas Astronautics Corp., has launched 163 satellites over the past 24 years and has an overall 97 percent success rate. Its last 40 launches have been successful.

State medical board issues complaint against doctor

United Press International

DALLAS — People suffering from cancer, heart disease, diabetes and a host of other ailments go to Dr. Ann Bhuket looking for a cure, but a state medical board complaint alleges she is a charlatan.

The complaint claims Bhuket, who practices in Plano, is guilty of using unorthodox and harmful means to treat at least six patients.

Bhuket, a native of Thailand who

went to medical school in Bangkok and completed her internship at Baylor Medical Center in Houston, practices holistic medicine.

Her stated medical theory distributed to patients includes the belief that "just as illness is a progressive degenerative process, so is wellness a progressive improvement program." Her treatments include "mental and spiritual counseling."

They also include what has been described as "all kinds of make-believe

machines" supposedly used as diagnostic tools.

Sam Stone, counsel for the board, is pressing the board to yank Dr. Bhuket's license.

"She harmed those patients," Stone said. "She constituted in those cases a danger to the public. She delayed treatment. She caused unnecessary pain."

Bhuket's attorney, Mike Aranson, would not allow his client to be interviewed.

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SEPT. 12	10:00, 1:30, & 3:00	R.M. 601 RUDDER
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