

State and Local

Shuttle change opens up \$6 billion industry

Companies grab for launch business

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — "Have Rockets — Will Launch" is the message from companies gearing up to grab their share of an estimated \$6 billion space launch business created by the government's decision to remove commercial satellites from NASA's shuttle.

Companies that manufacture or are planning to launch space rockets said their phones started ringing earlier this month when rumors circulated about the change in government policy.

President Reagan confirmed the rumors Friday by announcing that only 14 of 44 satellites scheduled for the shuttle would be launched once the craft resumes flights in 1988.

And on Tuesday, Martin Marietta said it will offer its Titan III to launch commercial satellites.

"We've had enough inquiries and market analysis to believe that there is a market there," said spokesman

Jack Boyd. "Until the president made the announcement the other day, we weren't sure it was a viable business. We examined it and have now decided it is."

Denver-based Martin Marietta said it is the only company in the nation currently operating a production line for space launch vehicles and the first launch could be as soon as early 1989. Titans have had 129 successful flights in 134 launches; the last two failed.

Mark Daniels of Space Services Inc., said Reagan's announcement "was a green light for the ELV (extendable launch vehicle) industry. We anticipate a very strong investor response."

Daniels said Space Services has signed two customers to launch a total of eight satellites on its Conestoga II, capable of putting only 300 pounds into a high orbit. The first launch is expected late next year.

Rick Endres, corporate vice president of Transpace Carriers Inc. which owns the marketing rights to the Delta rocket, said his company believes there is a need for 120 satellite launches, both military and commercial, over the next six years.

Endres estimates that satellite launch service from now until 1992 represents about a \$6 billion business, and other companies confirm the estimate.

Transpace already has signed two customers, said Endres, and received "about 20" expressions of serious interest.

Jack Isabel of General Dynamics, which makes the Atlas Centaur, said seven companies have made inquiries. He said his firm expects a short-term need for 15 to 16 launches a year.

Commercial services would use government launch facilities.

Most of the companies are waiting

for decisions by the Air Force before making major commitments.

Endres said there are only three completed Delta rockets, and one of those will be used by NASA to launch an Indonesian satellite. The Air Force has first claim on the other two complete Deltas and on eight that were mothballed before they were finished. Transpace cannot make final launch plans until the Air Force releases its claim, he said. He expects, though, to launch a private Delta by the fall of 1987.

The Air Force is expected to make a decision on Feb. 8 about a new medium-sized launch vehicle. Martin Marietta, General Dynamics and a partnership of Hughes Aircraft and Boeing Aerospace are all bidding for the contract.

Whoever wins the contract will have a guarantee of at least four Air Force satellite launches a year, enough to keep a production line

open. This would enable the winning company to more easily compete for commercial business.

Hughes and Boeing propose using rocket engines from the Saturn V booster of the Apollo program to build a launcher called the Jarvis, named for Hughes engineer Gregory Jarvis, who died in the Challenger explosion.

Richard Dore of Hughes said the Jarvis would be able to launch four to six satellites at once, putting 85,000 pounds into high orbit. But the system would be built only if it wins the Air Force competition.

All of the systems proposed for commercial launches would use time-tested technology. The Titans, Deltas and Atlases were all developed for military use in the '50s and '60s and have reliability records of better than 90 percent.

Interim dean for business announced

University News Service
Dr. Donald Hellriegel has been named interim dean of business administration at Texas A&M, announced Provost Donald McDonald.

Hellriegel takes over from Dr. William H. Mobley, who was named deputy chancellor of the Texas A&M University System.

Hellriegel served as head of the Management Department from 1977 until 1980. He served as interim vice chancellor for academic programs in 1982.

He previously taught at Pennsylvania State University, University of Colorado and the University of Washington. He is a fellow of the Academy of Management and the author of a widely used management textbook, "Organizational Behavior."

Sheriff: Violations by guards allowed inmate to escape

BRECKENRIDGE (AP) — A death row inmate received the opportunity to escape from a county jail because a jailer and trusty moved a prisoner in order to have sex with two female inmates, the sheriff says.

Stephens County Sheriff James Cain says an investigation into the escape of condemned killer Richard Donald Foster shows that he pulled a knife on jailer Mark LaBonte, 23, while LaBonte and a trusty were moving a female prisoner out of his cell.

The woman, Cindy Davis, had been placed in Foster's cell while the two men went into the female prisoners' cell to have sex with

two other, unnamed, female inmates, Cain said Monday.

The escape investigation by Texas Ranger Sid Merchant of Abilene showed that the jailer put Davis in Foster's cell while he and trusty Larry Burns went into the female prisoners' cells to have sex with two other female inmates, Cain says.

"I felt like this was a violation of a sacred trust," Cain told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "It violated every rule."

Foster escaped from the Stephens County Jail Aug. 3 and was recaptured Aug. 7.

Foster was in the Stephens County jail awaiting trial in Gainesville on aggravated kidnap-

ping charges. The abduction charges stem from a May 10, 1984, hostage siege at Citizens National Bank in Breckenridge.

Foster was sentenced to death for the 1984 murder of a Springtown man. Cain said he will transport Foster back to Stephens County on Thursday from the Ellis Unit in Huntsville for arraignment on the escape charges.

When the jailer opened the door to bring the woman out of Foster's cell, Foster held a knife to his throat, locked him in the cell and fled in his pickup with Davis, Cain said. Davis surrendered to authorities the next day.

Striking city workers fired

Whitmire fires 150 Houston trash collectors

HOUSTON (AP) — The mayor on Tuesday fired about 150 city trash collectors involved in a one-day wildcat strike called to protest increased workloads due to city worker layoffs.

Mayor Kathy Whitmire dismissed an estimated 150 workers who returned to their jobs Tuesday, but refused to actually work, said Joanne Adams, spokeswoman for the mayor. Termination letters were being drafted for those fired, she said.

"That's legal," Adams said of the firings.

Other who continued to call in sick or simply did not report to work also could be fired, she said.

Adams said Houston police will escort garbage trucks Wednesday in an attempt to prevent possible confrontations between striking and non-striking workers.

"We'll see how many (workers) we can get out that way," she said.

Sanitation department officials also are scheduled to meet Wednesday with workers' representatives to discuss their complaints, Adams said.

City officials on Tuesday continued to urge workers to return to work Wednesday, warning that temporary workers would assume the duties of striking employees.

Paul Mabry, a spokesman for Whitmire, said Tuesday, "Basically we are drawing the line in the dirt. We are asking the people who want to work to step over that line."

Whitmire had asked some 900 sanitation workers who called in sick Monday to return to their jobs. However, only 54 out of 402 garbage workers scheduled to work left from a city service center Tuesday to

retrieve trash, Solid Waste Management Department spokeswoman Juanita Howard said.

Only 18 of 32 garbage trucks were on the streets, she said.

Idled workers milled about outside the yard and police were summoned but no trouble was reported.

Of 1,100 people working for the solid waste department, 159 were dismissed and routes were lengthened by 20 percent on Aug. 1 in a second round of planned layoffs.

State law forbids public employees from striking, said Richard Timmons, business manager for a local American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. He added, however, that the law does not restrict individual action on job problems.

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