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What Do Spaceport Investments In New Mexico + Sweden Have In Common?

In January 2009, Spaceport Sweden and Spaceport America signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the aim to develop, in parallel, as sister spaceports. This past week, representatives from the two spaceports met again and attended several most successful working meetings.

A large team from **Spaceport Sweden** visited Las Cruces in New Mexico to confirm this important relationship, as well as to participate in the *International Symposium of*

Personal and Commercial Spaceflight (ISPCS). Two presentations were made by the Swedish team; the first was held by Mr. *Bengt Jaegtnes*, Vice President for **Spaceport Sweden**, who talked about new investments at Kiruna Airport in order to enable commercial spaceflight. The second was held by Mr. *Dan Bjork*, Marketing Director at **ICEHOTEL**, who spoke about the importance of developing the tourist concept in parallel with the space facilities. In addition, fruitful networking and meetings within two networks took place; the *Commercial Spaceflight Federation* and the *FastForward Studygroup* (focusing on point to point transportation).

It is now quite obvious that commercial spaceflight is taken seriously by the space community. The plans for space tourism, that dominated very heavily in the initial phase of the discussion of commercial spaceflight, has now got company by a vast range of other space domains; human spaceflight discussions heavily focused on flight safety, science and research discussions focused on microgravity topics, deployment of satellites from the new launch systems and advances in low earth orbit transportation both for passengers and cargo are the most mentioned. Very many also express their expectation of low cost access to space in a more environmentally friendly way.

