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## Satellites to Launch from Michigan

TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN – Satellites will soon be sent into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) from a launch facility in Michigan if planners are successful. The Michigan Launch Initiative (MLI) was unveiled during the 2018 Space Symposium held in Traverse City last week. The symposium was organized by the Michigan Aerospace Manufacturers Association (MAMA).

“Northern Michigan is uniquely positioned for a polar orbit satellite launch facility: low density population, extensive restricted airspace, interstate highway system accessible, engineering and manufacturing capacity” according to Gavin Brown, MAMA Executive Director. “Michigan is also an excellent location for a Northern Hemisphere LEO satellite command center”, Brown added.

Multiple aerospace companies, including SpaceX, Blue Origin, ISRO, ESA Vega, Firefly Aerospace and the US Department of Defense, have plans to launch satellites into LEO. “Over the next decade more than 7,000 small satellite launches are planned... if sufficient launch capacity exists” Brown reported. Two companies have already expressed their intent to use the Michigan launch facility.

The MLI will be the organization that will organize and facilitate interaction with governmental entities, including local, state, regional, federal and international agencies that will be involved with licensing, operational, and oversight of the launch facility and command operations center.

At full capacity, the MLI launch site will conduct 22-25 launches per year, with command center operating 24/7 for northern tracking operations. The launch facility site selection should be concluded by the second quarter of 2019. Funding, permits and environmental impact study completed by the third quarter of 2020, construction complete by the end of 2021 and the first launch in early 2022.

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### ABOUT MAMA

*Michigan Aerospace Manufacturers Association (MAMA) is a member supported organization that serves the interests of Michigan's aerospace and defense manufacturing firms with a single unified voice promoting the State of Michigan's aerospace and defense manufacturing community within the global industry. [www.michman.org](http://www.michman.org)*