

Angel Investment in Space Access

Stephen Fleming General Partner Seraph Group <stephen@fleming.name>

Focus: Space Access Costs

- Current rates: Putting an object in orbit costs twice its weight in gold.
- It's hard to build a factory with \$10,000 wrenches and \$3 million commutes!
- Need a 100x reduction in launch costs, or <u>nothing else matters</u>.





Angels vs. Institutions



- Investing our own money
- Typically interested in adding value
 - Advisory role, making contacts, etc.
- Can invest solo or in groups
- "You gotta believe!"

Institutions (VCs, etc.)

- Investing someone else's money
- Following rules established at fund inception
- Most prefer to be "fast followers"... not the first into a sector
- Pure financial focus

Angel Investment



- Usually \$100K—\$1 million per deal
- U.S. activity: \$24 billion/year
 - Primarily invested by <u>groups</u> of angels in <u>small</u> companies <u>close to home</u>

Relevance to space access

- It may be hard to assemble a group!
- Companies typically need more than \$1M.
- And they're typically not close to home.
- So we've seen the rise of the "super-angels"

Angel-Financed Space

Super-Angels

- Paul Allen,
 SpaceshipOne
- Richard Branson,
 Virgin Galactic
- Elon Musk, SpaceX
- Jeff Bezos, Blue Origin
- Robert Bigelow, Bigelow Aerospace
- John Carmack, Armadillo Aerospace

Traditional Angels

- XCOR
- Rocketplane Kistler
- Constellation Services
- TGV Rockets
- Masten Space
- UP Aerospace
- PlanetSpace
- Starchaser (UK)
- etc...

What's Needed Now

- Success stories!
 - Next SpaceX launch
 - Next Genesis module launch
 - First suborbital tourist launch
- Successful exits (IPO or M&A)
 - Biggest single factor in overcoming angel skepticism (Hi, Paul!)
 - Prove we can make money at this!
- Formation of space-focused angel groups
 - Involve more investors without billions in personal assets