Robert Monjay

From: Ben Brockert <ben@ablesc.com>
Sent: Monday, July 08, 2013 4:40 PM
To: PublicComments
Subject: Comments on RIN 0694-AF87

To whom it may concern;

I am immensely pleased that an amendment to the USML is being proposed. It is definitely a step in the right direction. As a contractor working on commercial space projects of no military use, with interest from potential international customers, the current regulations around ITAR have harmed my competitiveness compared to non-US companies.

The proposed rulemaking has been thoroughly analyzed and replied to by my colleague Jon Goff, CEO of Altius Space Machines. His comments have been submitted and can also be read online at http://blog.altius-space.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Altius_USMLCatXVRevision_Comments_RIN-1400-AD33.pdf

I would like to reiterate his comments and concerns and second his proposed solutions.

In particular, I'd like to highlight his comments regarding USML Category XV Paragraph (a)(11), regarding man-rated spacecraft:

"For all of these reasons, Altius feels that man-rated spacecraft are clearly of predominately civilian applications, and are not something that the US has a unique technological advantage in. As such, we strongly recommend that paragraph 121.1(a)(11) be removed entirely from the US Munitions List, and control of manned spacecraft be handled entirely via the newly created 9X515 ECCNs under the EAR."

Manned suborbital and orbital scientific research and space tourism have almost no possible military dual use, and as such should not be controlled as a munition. Its inclusion on the USML only serves to damage a nascent industry and give unfair advantage to international competitors on the open market.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to the day when only arms are covered by the International Traffic in Arms Regulations.

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