

PRINCETON MODEL CONGRESS 2010

Committee: Science and Technology
Orange House

Principal Author:

Bill No:

Delegation:

Title of Bill: A Bill to Establish a NASA Space Hotel (BENSH)

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PRINCETON MODEL CONGRESS

1 Preamble: WHEREAS the first commercial space-hotel is currently being built by the
2 Barcelona-based corporation The Galactic Suite Space Resort, and is scheduled to open to
3 guests in 2012, at a cost of \$4.4 million for an 8-week tropical island space training course
4 and a 3-day stay at the hotel; WHEREAS this space hotel is planning to use Russian rockets
5 and a Caribbean spaceport to transport their guests to the facility; WHEREAS another
6 partially-nationalized Russian company, RKK Energia, in conjunction with Roscosmos (the
7 Russian equivalent of NASA), and a Russian start-up corporation Orbital Technologies, is
8 also planning the construction and operation of a private space hotel, to be operational in
9 early 2016 if all goes according to plan; WHEREAS the U.S. company Virgin Galactic is
10 scheduled to test its first suborbital commercial space flights in 2011, at the cost of
11 \$200,000 per passenger per ride; WHEREAS two other U.S. corporations, Boeing and
12 Bigelow Aerospace, announced in July that they were planning to build a commercial space
13 station by 2015, and such an endeavor would probably require federal funding; WHEREAS
14 the U.S. National Space Policy released on June 28, 2010 has expressly stated as two of its
15 goals to “encourage the purchase and use of U.S. commercial space services and capabilities
16 in international cooperative arrangements” and to “actively promote the export of U.S.
17 commercially developed and available space goods and services, including those developed
18 by small- and medium-sized enterprises, for use in foreign markets, consistent with U.S.
19 technology transfer and nonproliferation objectives”; WHEREAS the 2011 national budget,
20 released on September 30, 2010, added \$6 billion to NASA’s budget over the next five
21 years, and also funds and authorizes NASA to contract with the U.S. commercial space
22 launch industry for the transport of astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS);
23 WHEREAS the industry of *government-funded* space tourism is rapidly growing, and in
24 order for U.S. corporations to remain competitive in this market, they would need
25 government funding and assistance; and WHEREAS the U.S. national deficit was \$1.42
26 trillion (12.3% of the GDP) for fiscal year 2009, and \$1.29 trillion for fiscal year 2010, and
27 the deficit is likely to remain near these levels for the next several years, and our continued
28 dependence on foreign creditors like China may compromise our ability to make unbiased
29 political and military decisions, to the detriment of our national security,
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31 Section 1: NASA will auction a contract for the construction of a luxury space hotel, similar
32 in scope to the ones currently being designed by Barcelona and Moscow, to all registered
33 U.S. space launch companies (both civilian and defense contractors). Depending on the
34 proposals submitted, NASA will have the latitude to accept one proposal in its entirety, or
35 portions of several different proposals, involving the use of multiple private contractors.

36 Section 2: NASA and its private sector contractor(s) will begin the construction of a space
37 hotel, with the aim to complete the project by 2017.

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39 Section 3: The “spaceport” currently under construction in New Mexico will be used as the
40 launch point for hotel guests. If a single contractor were used in the construction of the
41 hotel, said contractor will also be responsible for transporting the guests to and from the
42 hotel; if multiple contractors were used, NASA will choose one of the contractors to be in
43 charge of guest transport.

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45 Section 4: The revenues and expenses of the hotel, including its construction (estimated at
46 \$10 billion, however NASA will provide a more precise estimate), will be divided as
47 follows:

48 Sub-Section A: The contract will specify that 1/3 of the final cost will be paid by
49 NASA, while the remaining 2/3 of the cost will be divided among the private
50 contractor(s) involved in the project, according to the significance of their role in
51 the project.

52 Sub-Section B: Once the space hotel is fully operational and the first guests arrive
53 (all costs up to this point will be considered part of the final construction cost),
54 NASA will be responsible for paying for the upkeep of the hotel itself, while the
55 private contractor(s) involved in the project will be responsible for paying the fuel
56 and maintenance costs of the vehicles used to transport guests to and from the
57 hotel.

58 Sub-Section C: During regular operation of the hotel, NASA will receive ½ of the
59 hotel’s profits, and the other half will be divided among the private contractor(s)
60 involved, in the same ratios as they divided the final construction cost.

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62 Section 5: Let the funding for the construction of the hotel and its operation until the initial
63 investment is recouped be determined by the Appropriations committee.

64 Sub-Section A: Once the revenues of the hotel cover the operating costs and the
65 initial construction cost has been recouped, the profit NASA makes on the hotel
66 will be used directly to begin paying off the national deficit.

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68 Section 6: This bill shall go into effect ninety-one (91) days after passage.