

COLORADO SPRINGS--Beyond-Earth Enterprises, a Colorado Springs-based small payload sub-orbital launch company, announced it's first successful launch on the Road to Space series at 3:30 MDT. The LC rocket, fueled by an "M" class engine reached an altitude of approximately 8100 feet with a burn time of 10 seconds.

Several seconds into the flight the nosecone failed, causing the recovery system to lock up and fail to deploy. The craft crashed on the launch range and was fully recovered.

The flight was considered a success by the Beyond-Earth team as several new technologies were proven during the flight: the new fin section and motor mounts allowed the craft to fly straight and true, during the crash, LC collapsed along crumple zones as designed which minimized damage to the landing site and cargo, even though the rocket was destroyed, more than 90% of the cargo survived.

Joe Latrell, CEO of Beyond-Earth Enterprises says the company is highly motivated to encourage the average American to reach for space again. "We want [the public] to see that they could go to space someday--soon. This is a minor setback. We expect some things to break now—we'll learn from our mistakes. We're already working on the next launch for Memorial Day Weekend! We have a great team."

Launch Craft –Mission One (LC-MO01) carried a simulated payload of student contest entries, stuffed animals, and coins.

About the Road to Space series—This series of rockets is prove, over the next two years that rockets can be at least as safe as airplanes, leading the way for Space Tourism. The next flight in the series will be May 29, 2004.

About the Joshua II Project--Before getting our gear into space, we have to make sure it will survive the trip. The Joshua Project is a series of sounding rockets (Sounders) that are designed to test the limits of our equipment. Things will be broken here. These tests will provide the proof that our concepts work. That is what tests are for after all.

About Beyond-Earth Enterprises--Originally an X-Prize competitor, Beyond-Earth is leading the way to commercialization of space by providing small payload launch capabilities at affordable rates. Beyond-Earth officers are committed to revitalizing the American Public's interest in Space and conducts educational demos and lectures at area schools. The company is headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado with launch facilities at the Oklahoma Space Port. Additional information and lesson plan ideas can be found at <http://www.beyond-earth.com>