SpaceShipTwo, N339SS
Koehn Dry Lake, California
October 31, 2014

Investigator-in-Charge presentation
_accident summary

- October 31, 2014, 1007 local time
- Scaled Composites SpaceShipTwo
- Broke up 13 seconds into fourth powered test flight
- Impacted terrain over area 5 miles long near Koehn Dry Lake, California
Accident Summary

- Pilot seriously injured; copilot fatally injured
- SpaceShipTwo destroyed
- No injuries on ground
- Vehicle operating under an experimental permit issued by FAA/AST
FAA/AST Role in Commercial Space Transportation

- Protects public health and safety and safety of property
- Protects US national security and foreign policy interests
- Encourages, facilitates, and promotes commercial space industry
- Issues launch and reentry licenses and experimental permits
Mission Profile
Feather System

Normal or unfeathered configuration

Feathered configuration
WhiteKnightTwo and SpaceShipTwo
Ground-based camera

WhiteKnightTwo camera

SpaceShipTwo camera
Video is located on the NTSB YouTube Channel:
http://www.youtube.com/user/NTSBgov
Uncommanded Feather Movement
Feather System
Distance east of MHV, nm

Distance north of MHV, nm

- Parachute
- Seat
- Tailbooms
- SS2 track
- MOT & wings
- Cockpit & nose
- Rocket motor
- Release from WK2
- End of telemetry data
Parties to Investigation

• Scaled Composites
• Virgin Galactic
• Federal Aviation Administration
• Butler Parachute Systems
Safety Issues

- Human factors guidance for commercial space operators
- Preapplication consultation process
- Experimental permit evaluation process
- FAA/AST evaluation of Scaled’s hazard analysis and waiver from regulatory requirements
- Inspector familiarity with commercial space operators
- Emergency response planning
- Database for commercial space operators on mishap lessons learned