Space: the endless frontier in crisis

David Phillips · Oct 2026 · 4 min read

American space startups are at immediate risk of losing their ability to reach orbit. Without urgent action, we cede our dominance to China and will no longer be the global leader in space innovation.

In the West, smallsat launch demand is accelerating rapidly, and while tons to orbit has quintupled over the last five years, the supply actually applicable to this growing demand is already failing to keep up. This year alone, **launch costs for independent satellite manufacturers have doubled, and lead times are reaching 36 months for proven providers.**

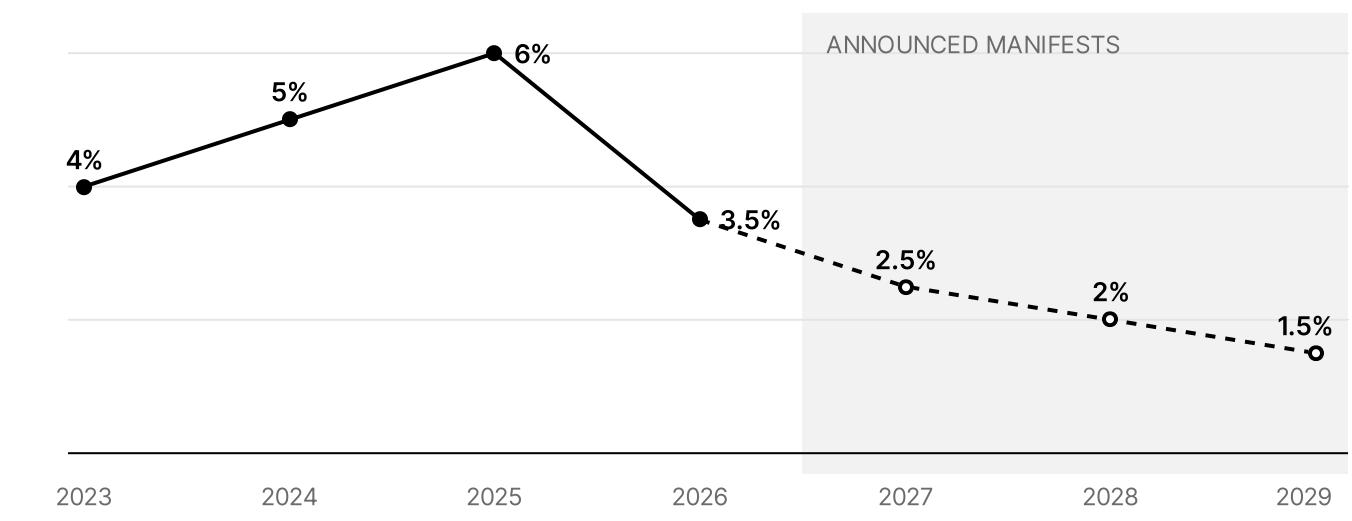
Meanwhile in China, costs are trending down and timely launch slots are readily available, attracting some companies to relocate their entire businesses outside of America for the sole purpose of accessing Chinese launch.

American innovation is at stake

The main issue is that rocket companies have **limited launch capacity to sell,** and even less incentive to undertake the labor-intensive process of running rideshare missions with 50+ individual customers per launch. It's far easier to deal with one large customer who can afford to book multiple launches.

The upshot of this issue is that the companies at the forefront of American innovation — the fast-growing tech startups pioneering revolutionary technologies that cannot compete with the capex budgets of large incumbents — have no foreseeable access to the orbital real estate essential to their ability to deliver on their groundbreaking achievements.

Share of U.S. launches dedicated to rideshare 2023–2029



Source: SpaceX, BryceTech, operator disclosures. 2027–29 per announced manifests.

SpaceX has announced it will not offer Falcon 9 rideshare services beyond its already scheduled and sold-out manifest, leaving American startups in dire need of reliable rideshare capacity. Other launch providers offer an eventual easing of the supply crunch, yet the years it will take them are effectively decades in terms of today's pace of innovation.

Preserving American dominance

Together, we must take swift action to make launch services available to American innovators. We, Dream Galactic, are prepared to spend up to $100m up front to secure full launches. We are fully prepared to hold entire manifests on our balance sheet if necessary.

$100m
Committed up front to secure full launches

~$80m
In customer capital commitments, and closing

By providing access to space to the boundary-pushing American innovators who can't afford or don't need to launch 20 tons of hardware at once, we can unleash the potential of the best and brightest in America and help propel them, and in turn, all of us, to new heights.

Every American space startup we've engaged is committed to our mission, with customer capital commitments closing in on $80m. Our partners have critical missions, such as increasing U.S. compute capacity with orbital supercomputers, delivery of energy, and the creation of advanced defense systems.

In a multipolar world, we face increasing competition, and to maintain our success, our greatness, we must be a nation in which innovation can come from anywhere, where anyone can build, deliver, and succeed.

We are equipped with the capital and full operational capacity required to move the frontier forward. With **your advocacy**, we will succeed in securing critical launch supply from leading providers. Together, we will elevate the brilliant innovators of tomorrow, and retain our driving position at the forefront.

We cannot fail.

David Phillips
CEO, Dream Galactic

david@dreamgalactic.org
760 805 3920

