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Maine Rocket Co. Wins NASA Grant

**Brunswick, Maine (June 18, 2019)** – A Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant proposal, submitted by [bluShift Aerospace](https://blushiftaerospace.com/) earlier this year, has been selected by NASA for negotiation of a contract. The Phase 1 grant will help bluShift develop its fully modular hybrid rocket engines, referred to as MAREVLs (**M**odular **A**daptable **R**ocket **E**ngine for **V**ehicle **L**aunch).

Modern orbital rockets are made up of two or more stages. Different stages use different engine types, each optimized for a specific part of the ascent. With MAREVL, each stage will have different numbers of the same engine type. MAREVL uses a hybrid rocket, in which liquid oxidizer combines with a solid fuel, to reduce the complexity, weight, and cost of the engine.

By perfecting and using a single, simple class of engine on all stages of a rocket, bluShift will lower costs associated with research, development, and manufacturing of any rocket powered by it. Mass production will further lower the cost of the engine. Any stage powered by three or more engines can steer by throttling instead of rotating the engines, further reducing weight and complexity.

Ultimately MAREVL will allow more frequent and more affordable launches. Any loss in efficiency will be made up for in overall cost savings, and be negated by bluShift’s proprietary bio-derived fuel, which is carbon-neutral.

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These funds came at a much needed time for the bluShift team, who want to accelerate R&D to produce a working prototype. Founding CEO Sascha Deri reflected on the award, “This is an incredible opportunity to develop hi-tech here in my home state, diversify Maine’s economy, and keep more of our bright young tech people here in Maine in the future.” For more on this year’s NASA SBIR/STTR awards, visit [https://sbir.nasa.gov](https://sbir.nasa.gov/).

## About bluShift Aerospace

Founded in 2014, bluShift Aerospace is designing a bio-derived rocket fuel, and a small rocket that can lift 50-kilogram payloads to low-Earth orbit. This new launch system will dramatically reduce the environmental impact, cost, and wait times of current cubesat launch services. By launching these rockets in the state, bluShift plans to create over 40 aerospace jobs in Maine over the next 5 years, and to bring revenue from the rapidly growing cubesat (miniature satellites) launch market into the state. BluShift Aerospace is headquartered at TechPlace, at Brunswick Landing.

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For more information about bluShift, please call Seth Lockman, Communications Director, at (207) 835-4079, ext. 149, or send an email to seth.lockman@blushiftaerospace.com