



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Commercial Space Transportation

800 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm 331  
Washington, D.C. 20591

October 13, 2016

Mr. Tim Hughes  
Sr. Vice President and General Counsel  
Space Exploration Technologies  
1020 15<sup>th</sup> St. NW #220E  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Hughes:

On September 22, 2016 Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) submitted video and audio, along with the results of company analysis to the FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation. SpaceX suggested that in the company's view this information and data could be indicative of sabotage or criminal activity associated with the on-pad explosion of SpaceX's Falcon 9 AMOS-6 vehicle on September 1, 2016. We were also informed that SpaceX had previously reported this same information to the US Air Force Office of Special Investigations (USAF OSI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) offices in Florida.

As a result of the information provided by SpaceX, the FAA made a formal inquiry to the FBI Criminal Investigative Division in Washington, DC and Tampa Field Office on this matter. In response, the FBI has informed us that based upon a thorough and coordinated review by the appropriate Federal criminal and security investigative authorities, there were no indications to suggest that sabotage or any other criminal activity played a role in the September 1 Falcon 9 explosion. As a result, the FAA considers this matter closed for purposes of the Falcon 9 AMOS-6 investigation that is currently being conducted by SpaceX under Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §417.111(h) and the oversight of the FAA. If any new information comes to light related to the potential for sabotage or criminal activity, SpaceX should forward this information to the FAA for appropriate disposition by the Federal investigative agencies.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael C. Romanowski  
Director, Commercial Space Integration

Cc: Dr. Hans Koenigsmann - SpaceX