

Use Case 2: Initiate Launch

Scope: Launch Simulator

Level: Flight Controller Goal

Primary Actor: Flight Controller

Related Use Cases: *Use Case 1: The Users shall monitor Pre-Launch Activities*

Stakeholders & Interests:

- Flight Controller: wants to initiate Launch
- Astronaut: wants successful Launch
- Flight Controller: wants a successful Launch
- Administrator: wants a successful Launch
- Local and Federal Politicians: want a successful Launch for campaign, re-election and other political purposes

Pre-Conditions: All Pre-Launch Activities are complete: the Countdown is at Zero, there is no hold nor abort on the Countdown, the System indicates no errors in the Pre-Launch Data

Post-Conditions: The Transition to Launch successful

Main Success Scenario:

Flight Controller	System
	1. Indicates Countdown at zero and ready to launch
2. Initiates Launch	
	3. Directs Engines to ignite
	4. Returns confirmation of the engine ignition
	5. Monitors Engine Thrust Data
	6. Returns Engine Thrust Data
	7. Repeats 5 & 6 until Engine Thrust adequate to lift rocket
	8. Rocket ready to Launch
9. Launch Rocket	
	9. Execute the Launching Mechanism (Launches Rocket)
	10. Monitors Engine Thrust Data
	11. Returns Engine Thrust Data
	12. Monitors Rocket for Clearing the Launch Tower
	13. Returns Rocket's current height
	14. Repeats steps 10 through 13 until Rocket Clears Launch Tower
	13. Returns Rocket Cleared Tower
	14. Transitions to Launch upon Rocket Clearing the Launch Tower
	15. Informs of Transition

Alternative Flows:

- 4a If the Engines do not ignite, then the System Alerts the Flight Controller of the issue, the Flight Controller aborts the launch
- 5a-7a If, after an expected time for the Engine Thrust to be adequate enough to lift the Rocket and there is not enough Engine thrust to lift the Rocket, then the System issues an Engine Thrust Failure
- 9a If the Flight Controller aborts the Launch, the System will not activate the Launch Mechanism, all the actors are to follow their respective Launch Abort Procedures.
- 5b.-7b,10a.11a. If there is an Engine Thrust Failure, then the System alerts the Flight Controller of the Engine Thrust Failure. The Flight Controller aborts the launch.
- 15a In the event of a Launch Abort, the System will not transition to Launch

Special Requirements:

- The Launch Initialization is from when the Flight Director Initiates the Launch Sequence to when the Rocket Clears the Launch Tower. The Flight Director has the ability to Abort the Launch Initialization. Special Abort Procedures must be developed and followed by the Flight Controller, and the Astronauts.
- Several factors and data points are required to determine if/when the Rocket is ready to Launch. The System will monitor all of these factors. All of these factors must be in a stable and expected state before the System will advise on launching the Rocket.
- There is only one point of Decision for the Abort. That decision rests with the Flight Controller. Currently, the Flight Controller takes no advisement other than System Data.
- The Launch Mechanism will not release the delivery system (rocket) until enough lift thrust is built up.

Technology & Variations List

- * The Launch Initialization data can be viewed simultaneously, or chose to view selected Launch Initialization data, at the discretion of the Flight Controller.
- * If the System is automated, then the System would determine when to ignite the engines, when to execute the Launching Mechanism, and make the decision to abort the Launch Sequence. The Flight Director would have final authority.

2a The Flight Controller can chose not to Initiate the Launch

Frequency of Occurrence: Almost continuously. Based on the Frequency of desired Launches.

Open Issues:

- Need to create a list of the Launch Data to monitor: needed for the decision for when to launch the Rocket
- What are the abort procedures?
- Consider shutting down the Rocket engines as part of the abort procedures
- If the Rocket engines are not capable of shutdown, consider other possible abort procedures
- Should the Astronauts have the ability to abort the Launch initialization?
- If the Engine thrust is inadequate to lift the to launch and the Flight Director does not execute the Launch Rocket procedure, should there be a System Override where the Launching Mechanism is not executed?