What would all of you out there in net land think of the big 6 (Martin

Mariatta, Boeing, Mcdonell Douglas, General Dynamics, Lockheed, Rockwell)

getting together, and forming a consortium to study exactly what the market

price pints are for building reusable launch vehicles, and spending say

$3million to do that. Recognizing that most of the military requirements

for launch vehicles are pulled out of a hat somewhere (say, has the shuttle

ever really used that 1200mi crossrange capability? You get the idea, figure

out how many, how often, where to, etc...)

Then taking this data, and forming a sematech type company (bad example, I

know... but at least its an example...) To develop between 3 and 5 craft

designs. Then to take all of those designs, and figure out EXACTLY what

the technologies are, and demonstrate those technologies, in order to

eliminate designs that can't be built today. And lets say that this

portion again funded by the GOV cost about $20 million.

And from here all of these companies went their separate ways, with the

intention of taking all of the market data and the design data to wall

street, and saying "I want to build this vehicle, and here are the numbers

that show %20 ROI, fund me...)

Now many of you think that this is a joke, but I have it on good authority that

just this project is shaping up in the background. It seems that the aerospace

companies have learned that everyone yelling similar but different things

ends up in many programs that do nothing much and get canceled (NASP, NLS,

ALS, DCY?, etc...) They need to work more in the japaneese, and european

spirit of initial cooperation. They have also learned that design requirements

that are phony (I.E. some generals idea of what a space vehicle ought to be)

ends up getting chopped up in congress, because it is not a REAL requirement.

Any feedback?

John.