Chapter 1: What Is Rideshare?  
**Key Terminology**

- **RIDESHARE** for satellites are missions where more than one spacecraft are manifested and launched on a single flight. There exists two types of rideshare:
  - **STANDARD RIDESHARE (sRS)** missions consist of a single PRIMARY SPACECRAFT PROVIDER that already is going to orbit and has one or more SECONDARY SPACECRAFT PROVIDERS that are along for the ride.
  - **DEDICATED RIDESHARE (dRS)** missions combine several satellite providers on a single launch manifest without a primary spacecraft to dictate the mission parameters. These missions allow rideshare spacecraft providers more control over the particulars of a mission.

**Keys to Accessing Rideshare Opportunities**

- **PARTY INTEGRATOR (3PI)**
  - Organizations (e.g., FAA, FCC, NOAA, etc.) are responsible for the oversight of the ride share spacecraft provider.
  - Rideshare spacecraft providers must understand that they must meet numerous requirements levied by the **Primary Spacecraft Provider** (a.k.a., “The Prime”) as well as the **Launch Vehicle Provider**.
  - Integrating onto a multiple spacecraft manifest becomes a highly complex endeavor.
  - Not all 3PIs are equal in the quality of support offered. Ask them to specify what services are provided.

**Why Aren’t There Very Many Rideshare Missions?**

- Although this is a blip in much broader discussion, the problem of inefficient pricing of rideshare stems from the fact that the low price point for launch is a symptom of many systemic issues. When the launch vehicle provider (e.g., Falcon, Atlas, Delta) offers a price point that is so low that it is not profitable for the launch vehicle. But it is very, very, very hard. The high cost of launch is not merely an activity where a rideshare spacecraft provider can afford to lose. But this is only the tip of the iceberg. The high cost of launch is not merely an activity where a rideshare spacecraft provider can afford to lose. The high cost of launch is not merely an activity where a rideshare spacecraft provider can afford to lose.

**Contracting Basics**

**Meeting the Launch Cost Threshold**

- This price point that the total rideshare manifest must exceed for the rideshare opportunity becomes a “Total Cost Threshold”.
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  - The Total Rideshare Cost Threshold is the sum of the total launch cost of the launch opportunity.
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  - Shown here is a graphic illustrating the various deliverables required of rideshare spacecraft providers.

**Practical Tips for Rideshare Seekers**

- **Choose Your 3PI Carefully**
  - Not all 3PIs are equal in the quality of support offered.
  - The 3PI must be capable of ensuring that all required deliverables are completed on time.
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- **Things to Consider When Choosing a 3PI**
  - What is the size of the 3PI team? How experienced are they? How large is the 3PI’s staff?
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- **Understand US Statutory Requirements**
  - The US government has a number of requirements that must be met for a rideshare spacecraft provider to launch their spacecraft.
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- **Secure Your Funding**
  - Rideshare spacecraft providers must consider more than one 3PI to compare the “standard services” that each 3PI offers.
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- **Know What Deliverables Are Required for Launch**
  - What are the deliverables required by the launch vehicle provider? What are the deliverables required by the launch vehicle provider? What are the deliverables required by the launch vehicle provider? What are the deliverables required by the launch vehicle provider?