

## Statement

On February 12, 2020, snopes.com published an article, in which journalist Alex Kasprak accused Noosphere Ventures top managers of creating a network of dating projects with fake profiles. At the end of the article, the author draws his own conclusions that the space company Firefly Aerospace, which is part of the Noosphere Ventures investment portfolio, is toxic, questioning whether NASA and other US governmental institutions should work with the company.

This is a manipulation. The article twisted the facts.

Noosphere Ventures projects and its C-level management have an impeccable reputation. We draw your attention to the following facts:

1. The dubious reputation of the snopes.com. Recall that this resource, [Forbes](#) and the [BBC](#) were previously found guilty of bias and inaccuracy. FoodBabe [has publicly accused](#) Snopes of placing custom-made articles and bullying against its products. Snopes claims to be an apolitical platform, but the ezine's authors at the same time post [articles](#) discrediting the policies of U.S. President Donald Trump.

2. Fact check.

- “In 2013, a report by the BBC alleged Cupid used ‘fake profiles’ of women to entice men to sign up for their paid service”. Mr Kasprak accidentally or intentionally forgot to mention that Max Polyakov left the post of Director of Cupid plc in 2012 and has had no influence on the development policy of the project since then. This fact is easily verified using the [UK corporate registry](#) or a simple Google search;
- “UK subsidiary of Firefly Aerospace”. Firefly Aerospace does not have a UK subsidiary, it does not own any shareholding in any UK company which may or may not have a similar previous name. All shareholder information for that specific company is available for verification on Companies House in the UK;
- “Potential FTC violations” by entities that the article attempts to unsuccessfully link to Mr Polyakov. There has never been any investigation, correspondence or other communication in respect of any of Mr Polyakov’s prior businesses and the FTC (or indeed any similar regulator in any territory).

These are just three of many factual errors contained in the article.

3. Alex Kasprak reproached top managers of Noosphere Ventures that he did not receive comprehensive answers to his requests, which ranged from dating projects to Firefly. Already at this stage, the thrust of this “investigation” had become clear and that our comments would not be taken into account or, worse, would be used in a negative light. So it happened.

4. The journalist said he worked on the article for two years, but its publication coincided (coincidentally?) with a lawsuit filed by former Firefly Systems investors. They claim they are responsible for the achievements and successes of the Firefly Aerospace after the company became part of Noosphere Ventures. The plaintiffs are now looking for any information or media reports that would back up their claims.

5. During the last three years, thanks to financial, managerial and technological support from Noosphere Ventures, Firefly Aerospace has entered into a partnership with NASA and AirForce and is now completing final tests and checks before launching its Alpha launch vehicle. When we speak of partnership with government agencies affecting national security, we mean that each employee, from the ordinary engineer to the top manager, has passed a thorough check to identify any potential problems.

We would like to put an end to speculation on this topic and urge all unbiased media not to spread rumors, but to check the facts independently, according to high journalistic standards.