



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aviation Safety Company Coming to KSC

BRS Aerospace to Open R&D Facility in Space Center Building

Brevard County, Fla. (July 19, 2013) – The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (EDC) is pleased to announce that BRS Aerospace will open a research-and-development operation for its global market in a former shuttle facility at Kennedy Space Center, creating nearly three dozen jobs and furthering the space center's push into the commercial aerospace industry.

BRS Aerospace will occupy the former Parachute Repack Facility at KSC, investing \$7.4 million over three years on renovations and equipment.

"We are excited to announce that BRS Aerospace has chosen to open a research-and-development operation on the Space Coast," said Florida Governor Rick Scott. "Our policies for Florida families and businesses to succeed are working. Florida's unemployment rate is below the national average, and we've created more than 330,000 private-sector jobs since December 2010. The new jobs being created by BRS Aerospace are just another example that it's working in Florida."

The primary mission of the Miami-based company's KSC operations will be research and development activities for parachute development, including commercial space applications, as well as production prototyping to allow optimization of manufacturing techniques.

The 34 jobs created over three years will pay an average annual salary of \$62,100.

"We are positioning BRS Aerospace for its next phase of growth into the space systems market", said Larry E. Williams, BRS Aerospace president and CEO. "This opportunity calls for additional facilities to support our expansion and the NASA facilities help us immediately optimize operations. Additionally, we can draw on the local talent so that we can leverage their exceptional professional capabilities to deliver long-term value to our customers."

The move represents the continued diversification of Kennedy Space Center, an effort

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spearheaded by the center's Planning & Development team along with the EDC, Space Florida and other organizations.

"Kennedy continues working with the commercial community to bring new partnerships to the center, and this latest agreement is a great example of pairing a NASA facility having a previously specialized focus, with a U.S. company that has a similar engineering and manufacturing focus," said Kennedy Director Bob Cabana. "This partnership would not have been possible without the support of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast. We welcome BRS Aerospace to Kennedy Space Center and look forward to a long-standing partnership."

BRS Aerospace was looking at sites nationwide but the synergy of a KSC location, as well as the Space Coast's skilled workforce and competitive incentives and the potential for partnerships with KSC agencies and launch companies led the company to choose Brevard.

Lynda Weatherman, president and CEO of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, said the expansion is a win for everyone involved.

"BRS gets a location at the heart of Brevard County's evolving and active post-shuttle aerospace industry, while KSC further establishes its standing as a viable commercial center. And the Space Coast gets a company that exemplifies our technological curiosity and R&D strengths while adding more than 30 jobs to our economy," she said.

Space Florida President Frank DiBello said the company deepens the growing roster of aerospace companies in the Sunshine State and at KSC.

"BRS and its critical, lifesaving parachute technologies will add to the rich diversity of aerospace companies setting down roots in Florida," he said. "We are truly pleased to see yet another solid aerospace company utilizing the extremely valuable assets that exist at Kennedy Space Center."

Founded in 1980, BRS Aerospace develops and commercializes parachutes in two primary business segments: aviation, featuring whole-aircraft emergency recovery parachute systems for use primarily with general aviation and recreational aircraft; and defense, which centers on personal parachute systems, low-cost aerial delivery systems, precision-guided aerial delivery systems and whole-aircraft emergency recovery parachutes mainly for unmanned aerial vehicles and training aircraft.

The company will hire workers in aerospace engineering and management.

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“Florida’s aerospace industry is alive and well on the Space Coast,” said Secretary of Commerce and President & CEO of Enterprise Florida Gray Swoope. “The state’s renowned research and development base, strong industry workforce and top-ranked multi-modal infrastructure help it maintain its standing as a world leader. Announcements like this from BRS Aerospace are indicative of the growth we can expect to see in Florida’s commercial aerospace industry.”

About the Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast

The Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast is dedicated to attracting new business and investment and expanding existing industry throughout the Space Coast, influencing change on government laws and regulations affecting economic development, promoting the Space Coast to encourage new investment, supporting efforts of Space Coast military installations, and relaying new programs and procedures to assist manufacturing and high tech companies. The EDC is a private, not-for-profit coalition whose stakeholders are business leaders committed to the economic growth and stability of Florida’s Space Coast. Visit www.SpaceCoastEDC.org.

About BRS Aerospace

BRS Aerospace is a leading aviation safety company in the United States. Founded in 1980, BRS Aerospace is engaged in the business of developing and commercializing parachutes in two primary business segments: **Aviation** - BRS Aerospace engineers, design, test and produce commercial space applications for unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and whole-aircraft emergency recovery parachute systems for use primarily with general aviation and recreational aircraft; and **Defense** - BRS Aerospace engineers, designs, tests and produces personnel parachute systems, low-cost aerial delivery systems, precision guided aerial delivery systems, and whole-aircraft emergency recovery parachutes primarily used on unmanned aerial vehicles and training aircraft. To learn more about BRS Aerospace, please visit www.brsparachutes.com.

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