



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Adam Lowenstein, Director, Marketing and Communications
(321) 638-2000
alowenstein@spacecoastedc.org

Tech Transfer Forum Unites Businesses, NASA Innovators

More than 120 attend unique event to build partnerships, boost economy

Brevard County, Fla. (September 18, 2013) – More than 120 innovators and business leaders came together this month to discuss the technology that helped define the Space Coast and develop ways to join forces in commercializing that technology as the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, NASA and Kennedy Space Center held their inaugural Tech Transfer Forum.

"We are pleased that this event helped spur the exchange of ideas that is so essential to the growth of our high-tech economy," said EDC President and CEO Lynda Weatherman. "These fledgling partnerships will benefit both NASA/KSC and our business community by pushing forward on the commercialization of this cutting-edge technology."

The forum was sponsored by Craig Technologies, QinetiQ, Space Florida, University of Central Florida, Rapid Prototyping Services, Florida Institute of Technology, Brevard Workforce and Florida High Tech Corridor.

Featuring more than a dozen presentations on topics ranging from KSC lab capabilities to modeling and simulation to smart wiring and self-healing materials, the daylong event Sept. 12 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cocoa Beach was designed to unite NASA's scientists with innovation-minded businesses from the Space Coast and the region.

"The Tech Transfer Forum event is another great example of the ongoing collaboration NASA has with the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast," said Tom Engler, Deputy Director of NASA KSC's Center Planning and Development Directorate. "The event was very successful in identifying potential future partnerships with commercial industry throughout the state"

KSC Director Bob Cabana, who delivered the keynote address, talked about the importance of partnerships, as well, such as those between NASA and the business community. He cited the

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arrival of commercial companies United Paradyne Corp. and BRS Aerospace to Kennedy Space Center, where they will operate in former space shuttle facilities, and Craig Technologies' Aerospace & Defense Manufacturing Center, which was formerly the NASA Shuttle Logistics Depot.

"I think the partnerships are key," he said. "This is our future: working together to make all of this happen."

Attendee Steffani Burd, founder of Ansec Group, a Brevard County firm specializing in data analytics and security in healthcare, was struck by the potential on display at the forum.

"There is some seriously latent power just waiting to be unleashed," she said afterward.

Burd is eager to tap into that power and applauded NASA and the EDC for taking the first step: raising awareness and starting the conversations.

"Technology in this area is really a hotspot in terms of ideas that are coming out of the area, ideas that are transforming the area into being a technology-focused kind of place," she said.

The event made clear how important innovation and technology are to the Space Coast, noted Carol Craig, CEO of Craig Technologies and one of the day's speakers.

"When you think of innovation, you think of NASA," she said.

She later added that the EDC, like NASA, plays an important role in building and diversifying the region's economy.

"I think we have to give credit to the EDC for what they are doing and how they attract innovative companies, and how they support and help existing companies that are here grow and take advantage of incoming capabilities," Craig said. "I was a skeptic when I first moved here. I did not understand what the EDC did. So I got involved. If you get involved, you start to learn, you see what they are doing. They are doing great things."

NASA's Engler added, ""The forum was a great opportunity for NASA to reach out to the local community to highlight the outstanding research being performed at KSC. We appreciate the outstanding turnout by the local businesses and look forward to working with them to infuse NASA technology into their products and services."

Find photos of the event at the NASA/KSC multimedia gallery by clicking [here](#). Search for key word "technology." For more on KSC's technology transfer program, click [here](#).

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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 for more information.

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