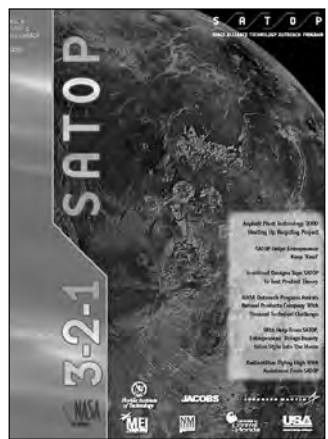


BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of the *Houston Chronicle* through this monthly supplement.

## IN BRIEF

**SATOP provides solutions for free to small businesses**

The Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program is administered by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. It is a NASA and State of Texas funded initiative designed to transfer the knowledge and technology of the U.S. Space Program to small businesses, at no charge to them, to solve technical challenges they are unable to solve themselves.



SATOP publishes 3-2-1 SATOP, a quarterly newsletter in each of the four states that support the program (Texas, New York, Florida, and New Mexico). Each newsletter focuses on SATOP events, success stories, economic development organizations, and Alliance Partners. For additional details on this valuable program and to use the links to download a pdf format newsletter, visit [www.space-tech-solutions.com](http://www.space-tech-solutions.com).

Call Nick Gardner, program manager, at 832.536.3248 for more information.

# Texas stunned by NASA's decision on homes for retired shuttles

Shock and outrage spread across the nation's heartland on Tuesday, April 12, when NASA Administrator Charles Bolden took the podium at Kennedy Space Center in Florida and announced the sites that had been selected to receive a space shuttle orbiter when the shuttles are retired later this year. Neither Space Center Houston nor any facility in the nation's midsection was among those named.

Instead, shuttle Enterprise will move from the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Virginia to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York. The Udvar-Hazy Center will become the new home for shuttle Discovery, and shuttle Endeavour, which is preparing for its final flight at the end of the month, will go to the California Science Center in Los Angeles. Atlantis, which will fly the last planned shuttle mission in June, will be displayed at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in Florida.

### Space Center Houston televises announcement

Space Center Houston televised the announcement, which was held in

conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the launch of the space shuttle fleet. SCH visitors and event attendees were noticeably surprised and upset that Houston, known around the world as the home of human space flight, as well as home base for the astronaut corps, would not have a shuttle to display.

Following the announcement, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership President Bob Mitchell, Space Center Houston President/CEO Richard E. Allen, Jr., and Attorney Denis Brahm of Winstead Law Firm spoke to the numerous people

and media gathered for the event. These community leaders, along with members of the Texas legislature, members of Texas' congressional delegation, many organizations and countless individuals have spent the past two years preparing for what they hoped would be a positive outcome to Bolden's announcement.

Braham stated, "This is a sad day. It's sad, because Houston did not get the recognition it deserved. Houston is Space City. To find out today that Houston was barely mentioned in the remarks of the NASA officials is a true disappointment to our community."

Allen tried to remain positive and told the crowd, "Obviously for us, today is a bitter disappointment. However, let me just reiterate that the space program is going to continue. Johnson Space Center will continue to be the home of Mission Control. It will continue to do the astronaut training. Space Center Houston, with its great programs, will continue to support the space program and educate all of our students and our visitors about the greatness of the space program."

### Mitchell calls for congressional action

Mitchell called for ac-



Attorney Denis Brahm of Winstead Law Firm, Space Center Houston President/CEO Richard E. Allen, Jr., and Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership President Bob Mitchell (from left) reflect the somber mood of those gathered at Space Center Houston to hear NASA Administrator Charles Bolden's announcement of the disposition of the retired space shuttle orbiters. Mitchell stated, "This community has taken a number of punches to the stomach these last two years from this administration. Today we got another one."

tion saying, "This is a difficult day for all of us, especially the men and women who have dedicated their lives to the Johnson Space Center and the shuttle program. The astronauts have trained in Houston, and many still make their homes here. Mission Control monitors each and every shuttle flight. Houston is known as the home of human space flight. Common sense tells you that these facts alone would have been enough for Houston to have been selected to receive a retired shuttle orbiter. We will call for a congressional investigation or at the very least a congressional hearing. Politics should never play a part in a decision about a piece of American history. Today

I am afraid that politics trumped common sense. Let's hope at the end of the day that Houston was not selected due to someone's political agenda."

Two of the retired shuttles will be located fairly close to each other - one in Washington and one in New York City while the nation's heartland will be left empty-handed. Texas' local, state and federal elected officials were quick to respond to the deeply disappointing and obviously lopsided distribution of the shuttles. Others in addition to Mitchell have called for a review of the selection process. NASA's administration may have made its decision known on April 12, but the story is apparently far from over.

## Chavez chosen to be TCC's Caring for Texas judge for sixth consecutive year

Paul Chavez, marketing director of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, recently served as the Houston-area representative on the TCC/ACIT (Texas Chemical Council / Association of Chemical Industry of Texas) Community Panels of Judges for the sixth consecutive year.

"Although I'm not directly employed within the chemical industry," Chavez explained, "I have worked closely with our industry partners both in the community and through BAHEP's Chemical Industry Advisory Panel for the past eight years. The CIAP connects the chemical industry's needs and challenges with resources and expertise to foster the growth of this important pillar of the region's economy. I am quite honored to have been chosen once again to serve as a judge."

The community panels meet annually as part of the TCC Caring for Texas program. The award program was adopted by the TCC Board of Directors in October 1998. It recognizes the chemical manufacturer who demonstrates sustained excel-

lent performance in community awareness, emergency response, security, and pollution prevention.

"We thank Paul for his continued commitment to the Texas chemical industry by serving as a judge for the Caring for Texas Awards program," said TCC President & CEO Hector L. Rivero. "It's so important to TCC's members to have dedicated volunteers like Paul participate in the community panels and provide a much-needed external perspective."

### TCC/ACIT Texas Chemicals Day

Improving the environmental aspects of operating chemical plants has been strongly emphasized for decades within the state. Many Texans, however, are unaware of just how much has been accomplished. Organized in 1953, TCC was the country's first state trade associ-

ation that represented the chemical industry's common interests at the state level. Each year chemical industry executives, site leaders, and environmental, health and safety personnel attend the TCC/ACIT Chemicals Day at the Texas Capitol.

More than 150 chemical industry representatives met with state legislators in March during Chemicals Day 2011. "Attendees were briefed

on key industry issues being debated in the halls of our Capitol," said Chemicals Day 2011 Chairman Warren Mayberry of DuPont. "We heard from Senate Natural Resources Committee Chairman Troy Fraser and House Environmental Regulation Committee Chairman Wayne Smith, as well as Gov. Rick Perry's Legislative Director Ken Armbrister and House Speaker Joe Straus' General Counsel Jesse Ancira," Mayberry added.

During the briefings, the TCC's Outreach Committee delivered about 275 bags to legislator and committee offices that contained a bottle of water, soap, salt and pepper, aluminum foil, post-it notes, and more. These reusable plastic shopping bags, filled with consumer products made from materials at TCC/ACIT member Texas facilities, help to educate legislators about the impact of the industry.

Chavez has also participated in Chemicals Day at the Capitol for the past four legislative sessions. "You can read about the way in which chemicals have a positive impact on our lives, but seeing products that we use all of the time and talking with people from the industry really makes an impact on these decision makers in Austin."

To learn more about this important Texas industry, visit [www.txchemcouncil.org](http://www.txchemcouncil.org).



This mock-up located at Space Center Houston will be as close as many people from "Space City" or the heartland of America ever get to seeing a space shuttle orbiter following NASA's decision to place retired orbiters only on the east and west coasts.



Paul Chavez (left), marketing director, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, is shown with Alvin Garza (center), former chairman of BAHEP's Chemical Industry Advisory Panel, and Hector Rivero, president and CEO, Association of Chemical Industry of Texas.

## Texas air quality ranks among the best

The production of chemicals in Texas is the largest manufacturing industry in the state. There have been substantial reductions of emissions of reportable chemicals to the air and water in recent decades. Between 1988 and 2001, reportable air emissions from all Texas industrial facilities were reduced by 66 percent. The chemical industry alone was responsible for achieving 63 percent of all reductions statewide. As a result, Texas air generally contains lower amounts of air toxics

than found in most other states.

According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Nitrogen Oxides, a main precursor to ozone formation, decreased almost 58 percent in Texas from 2000 to 2009. From 2000 to 2009, ozone levels in Texas have decreased by 27 percent statewide, more than any other state in the nation. By comparison, the rest of the nation averaged only a 12 percent decrease in ozone levels over this same time period.



At the invitation of Rep. Pete Olson (TX-22), Rep. Ralph Hall (TX-4), the chairman of the House Committee on Science and Technology, visited Johnson Space Center and the local aerospace community in March. As chairman, Hall has oversight over NASA. While he was in town, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's Aerospace Advisory Committee hosted a luncheon for Hall at the Nassau Bay Hilton where he spoke about his strong commitment to NASA.

## JAXA a valued international partner for NASA and BAHEP

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) Houston office, which covers the southern area of the United States, serves mainly as a liaison office with NASA's Johnson Space Center. JSC manages human space programs, for which JAXA's Houston office offers an extensive range of assistance, including the training of Japanese astronauts, the development, operation and utilization of the International Space Station, and further cooperation for NASA's human space exploration program.

Bob Mitchell, president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, welcomed JAXA to the organization stating, "JAXA has been a valued international partner to NASA for many years, and now we will have an even greater opportunity to work together on important aerospace initiatives."

Masazumi Miyake, director of JAXA's Houston office, and Dan Bland, president of Japan Manned Space Systems (JAMSS) America, Inc., will represent JAXA within BAHEP. Mr. Miyake stated, "The JAXA Houston office looks forward to being a proactive, vocal advocate with other BAHEP members for a robust U.S. and international human space program."

JAXA's Houston office is located at 100 Cyberonics Drive, Suite 201, in Bay Area Houston. Additional information can be found at [www.jaxa.jp](http://www.jaxa.jp) or by calling 281.280.0222.



*BUSINESS to BUSINESS* is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with the *Houston Chronicle*. BAHEP is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeast Texas. Its members include over 260 business partners encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, and the Port of Houston Authority.

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