

IN BRIEF

Celebrating 50 years

Over the next year, NASA will celebrate 50 years of scientific and technological excellence. NASA has powered us into the 21st century through signature accomplishments that are enduring icons of human achievement.

Among those accomplishments are technological innovations and scientific discoveries that have improved and shaped our lives on Earth in a myriad of ways. Please join us as we celebrate the past and look forward to a promising new era of inspiration, innovation, and discovery.

World space celebration

On April 12th 1961, Yuri Gagarin made his historic flight around the Earth and became the first human in space — an instant hero who opened up the dream of space flight for all people. Exactly 20 years later the first Space Shuttle was launched, on April 12, 1981. Yuri's Night is a tribute to the space achievements of both nations and the connection humanity has to the stars.

The Houston 2008 Yuri's Night celebration, hosted by the American Astronautical Society, has partnered with the organizers of the Bay Area Motorcycle Rally to throw a celebration that will attract thousands of visitors from around the United States and the World.

This educational event is open to kids of all ages and will be held at Space Center Houston on Saturday, April 12th.

"My rocket scientist"

Recognizing the role education, specifically science and math, plays in economic development a program was designed to team up any employee supporting America's space program with a student or group of students needing assistance, and to provide volunteers for NASA-JSC education and outreach events.

For more information on the My Rocket Scientist mentoring program, visit <http://myrocketscientist.wordpress.com/>

The 17th annual Washington, D.C., trip

Mark your calendars...Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's Citizens for Space Exploration's annual trip to Washington D.C., will take place May 19 - 22, 2008. This is the 17th year that the grass roots organization will visit our lawmakers in D.C. to advocate for NASA and a robust space exploration program.

For more information on the trip contact David Braun 281-486-5535.

Solutions for small businesses

The Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program is administered through Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. It provides technical assistance to small businesses at no charge, and is funded by NASA and the State of Texas.

SATOP is currently assisting a company to refine a device that would permanently anchor mobile homes to prevent excess damage in the event of hurricane force winds. For information on SATOP contact Nick Gardner at 281-486-5535.

Linking local businesses with local schools

In a show of regional solidarity, local school districts serving the Bay Area region, along with Harris County partnered to encourage local vendor participation in the districts' upcoming purchasing initiatives.

This annual event, known as the Public School Vendor Breakfast, is hosted by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's Education and Workforce Development Committee as an effort to link local business owners with local schools.

Chair of the Education and Workforce Development Committee Harvey Hartman said in 2004 the committee realized that the Partnership held a unique ability to bring both schools and businesses together for a common goal, thus spurring the first Public School Vendor Breakfast.

"All of us benefit as taxpayers when our schools can expand their vendor base, get more competitive bids for their work and contribute to the local economy," Hartman said. "And area businesses win, too, when they have the opportunity to supply local needs as they grow their business. We're just happy to be able to bring all the parties together. The Public School Vendor

Breakfast is just one more example of how the Partnership can help bring people and organizations together to help make the Bay Area a better place to live, work and play."

"It also promotes a sense of community," said Roxanne Green, owner and choreographer for Dancemobile. "When businesses get involved in local schools, they have a sense of pride and enjoy helping the schools. This can carry over to provide business donations to the school clubs and teams at a later date, which builds a stronger community."

Local vendors had an opportunity to learn how to tap into a potential market that serves more than 100,000 students in the Bay Area Houston region. The event connected local vendors with buyers from the Clear Creek, Friendswood, La Porte and Pasadena school districts, and Harris County.

School districts brought a team of purchasing agents and managers to meet with local vendors. Leading the teams, Greg Cruthirds, Director of Purchasing and Material Management for Clear Creek ISD; Alison Rendon, Executive Director of Business for Friendswood ISD; Dana Lee,

Manager of Purchasing and Contracts for La Porte ISD; Angela Eng, Director of Purchasing for Pasadena ISD; and William "Bill" Perry, Contract Administrator for Harris County.

Each of the districts brought an informative message to the audience and discussed specific purchasing requirements, general sources of procurement that they utilize (such as buy boards) and elaborated on the future purchasing plans of their district.

Although contracts are often awarded to the lowest bidder, this is not always the case, as Cruthirds said. There are other considerations that CCISD takes into account when purchasing from vendors, such as quality, service and delivery.

"We find that our local vendors provide excellent service along with cost savings," Cruthirds said. "They are vested in our community and we need their expertise and resources in order to achieve best value for our taxpayers and provide the best education possible for our children."

The event was deemed a success by the more than 150 attendees and many attendees stated that they were pleased by the outcome including Terry Canup, sales manager for



Chair of the Education and Workforce Development Committee Harvey Hartman, on left, thanked local school district representatives from Clear Creek ISD Greg Cruthirds, Friendswood ISD Alison Rendon, Harris County William Perry, Pasadena ISD Angela Eng, La Porte ISD Dana Lee and Tara Hayes, business development manager for RSA Corporation, for making this year's event a success.

Pasadena Furniture Bargain Barn. Bob Mitchell, president of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership thanked the local school districts and the local chambers of commerce for their role in helping to make this year's event a success.

"While I have attended many one on one events, none have approached the level of direct interaction that the BAHEP event allowed," Canup said. "Personal, efficient and productive - a tough combination to beat."



Courtesy of SPACEHAB

The Company has recently completed pre-production testing of the AirWard Container to the new DOT requirements, demonstrating that the design meets and exceeds all requirements. In addition to the thermal and flame resistance testing, impact testing has also been completed. All critical milestones for the certification of the patented AirWard Container design have been achieved and customer deliveries will begin in mid 2008.

New rules for transporting oxygen containers, lead to invention

When Bob Logan of Texas Calibration found out about impending Department of Transportation rules that regulate how airlines transport potentially volatile oxygen bottles, he knew he had the opportunity to provide a safe solution to the new requirement.

The oxygen bottles provide emergency oxygen to the crew in the event of a loss in cabin pressure. After a period of time, the bottles must be sent to a repair facility to be inspected and recertified.

Logan knew the upcoming DOT regulations required the shipping containers to be highly heat resistant to prevent oxygen from escaping in the event of a fire on board an aircraft. He had a basic idea of how his container was to be constructed, but he needed help assuring it would be heat resistant.

Logan contacted Project Engineer Nick Gardner at the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program for help in solving this key technical issue. SATOP is administered by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership and is funded by NASA and the State of Texas to provide free engineering assistance to small U.S. businesses.

Gardner paired Logan's Texas Calibration company, a woman-owned small business, with materials engineering expert Paul Ledoux from SPACEHAB, a commercial aerospace company and SATOP partner.

Ledoux was able to help select suitable materials to be used for the design that would stand up to the DOT's stringent testing requirements. After SPACEHAB provided Ledoux's recommendations to Texas Calibration and the SATOP request was closed, Logan asked if SPACEHAB would be interested in entering into a business relationship in order to manufacture the container for them. SPACEHAB accepted through its SPACETECH, Inc. subsidiary and Project Manager Jim Frazier and team proceeded to

build a prototype of the new AirWard Container Systems. The AirWard prototype was built and the team is making significant progress on meeting the required testing. SPACEHAB's Chief Operating Officer Mike Bowker, has reported that several domestic airlines have expressed strong interest in purchasing the specialized containers and that they expect additional interest from international airlines after the company unveils AirWard at this year's Aviation Industry Expo in Dallas from March 18-20, 2008. Customer deliveries will begin in mid 2008.

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ON THE WEB

For more information on SATOP, please visit www.bayareahouston.com/Home/TechnologyOutreach/

Aerospace Advisory Committee

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's Aerospace Advisory Committee is a self funded committee, which consist of three smaller sub-committees, Team NASA, Space Center Volunteers and Citizens for Space Exploration.

The mission of AAC is to promote continuing support and commitment to the space programs, and space operations functions being implemented by NASA-JSC. The committee also recommends and implements initiatives that support NASA-JSC and the local aerospace community.

The Partnership believes that NASA-JSC and the aerospace community are vital to the region. Therefore in an effort to encourage continued support and growth, the committee's initiatives are focused on three critical areas including funding, education and workforce development, and community outreach work.

Without the support of investor companies, the AAC would not be able to fulfill its mission.

AAC Investors

AmegyBank of Texas
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Mission statement

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment.