

Ready for the new frontier

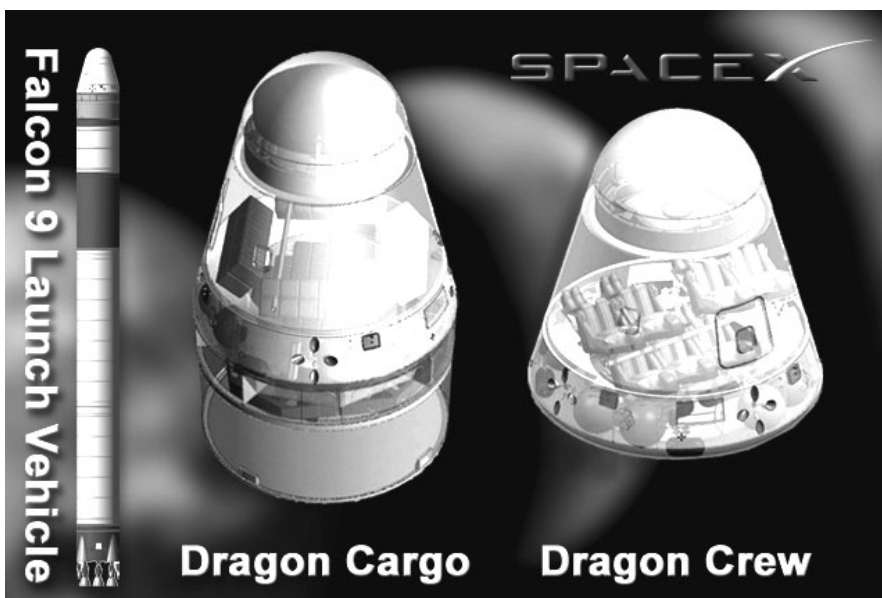
Commercialization of space poised on infrastructure in Bay Area Houston region

As the paradigm for space exploration shifts, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is poised to position Bay Area Houston on the forefront of what may be the fastest growing segment in the aerospace industry - the commercialization of space.

NASA is seeking a commercial launch provider to provide launches to Earth orbit and to the International Space Station. The Shuttle provides those launch services now, but it will be retired in 2010. The opportunity for U.S. commercial companies is wide-open.

If NASA is unable to find a commercial launch provider within the U.S., they will be forced to purchase launch services on foreign spacecraft, such as the Russian Soyuz, the European Space Agency Automated Transfer Vehicle or the Japanese H-II Transfer Vehicle.

Recently, NASA announced the Commercial Orbital Transportation System program, a \$500 million program created



As part of NASA's Commercial Orbital Transportation System, SpaceX received \$278 million to help fund the development and flight demonstration of Dragon, a ballistic capsule launch atop the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket currently in development.

by NASA to stimulate entrepreneurs to develop commercial launch services to and from the ISS. The partnership between public and private space exploration will drive innovation and reduce cost.

"This is the first time that NASA has sought private sector commercial launch services to the ISS," said Butch Hosler Ph.D., the NASA executive on loan to the Bay

Area Houston Economic Partnership. "The initiative is unprecedented, since traditionally NASA has overseen the conception and development of space vehicles. Instead, NASA will hire commercial space companies to send cargo and eventually crew to the ISS."

Hosler has worked in the U.S. space program since 1989; his primary objective while at Bay

Area Houston Economic Partnership is to promote the commercialization of space and the COTS program.

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is a distinguished regional economic development organization representing two counties, 13 cities, and more than 250 member businesses.

In addition, Bay Area Houston Economic Part-

nership administers the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program, which offers up to 40 hours of free assistance from a scientist or engineer for small business owners faced with a technical challenge.

There are more than 40 aerospace companies in the Bay Area Houston region, enabling the NASA Johnson Space Center to fulfill its human space flight mission. JSC annually manages \$4 billion in federal aerospace contracts.

"The Bay Area Houston region presents an advantageous platform to develop the commercial space industry," said Bob Mitchell, director of aerospace marketing for Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. "Bay Area Houston affords a wealth of opportunities because of its existing aerospace infrastructure, its highly educated workforce and the multiple contracting opportunities open to employers."

The Bay Area Houston aerospace community employs 92 percent of all

aerospace jobs in metropolitan Houston. In total, there more than 18,000 people working in the aerospace sector."

NASA has estimated that commercial space services will be necessary through at least 2015 since NASA's new Crew Exploration Vehicle, the Orion, may not be completed until 2014.

"Not only is commercial space a viable industry, it offers a transition for engineers and scientist during the period of the retirement of the space shuttle and the completion of the Orion," Mitchell said.

Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership leadership is vital to the success of regional economic development - continuing to attract, retain and expand industries.

"The United States leads the world in innovation and space exploration," Hosler said. "This is a prime opportunity for the U.S. to develop the commercial space industry. This will enable us to continue our job, one that we have done for years."

Chavez designated as rep for statewide economic body

The Texas Economic Development Council announced the appointment of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership's Marketing Director, Paul Chavez as the Gulf Coast region representative.

"Chavez's unwavering devotion to this region

coupled with his strong commitment to understand-



Chavez

the challenges and opportunities with the target industries of our region will serve as an asset to TEDC and our community," said Jim Reinhartsen, BAHEP president.

BAHEP, a distinguished regional economic development organization, strives to attract, retain and expand industries in the Bay Area Houston region, which represents 12 cities and two counties.

This is the first term Chavez has served for TEDC, since he began

working in the economic development field more than seven years ago; members are nominated to the board for one-to two-year terms.

"Paul is an up-and-coming member, and we are excited about his move into a leadership position," said Carlton Schwab, president and CEO for TEDC.

TEDC is an Austin-based, statewide, nonprofit professional association dedicated to the development of economic and employment opportunities in Texas.

In addition, TEDC is the largest state association of economic development professionals, volunteers and elected officials.

Chavez earned a master's degree in business administration and human resource management from the University of Phoenix and a bachelor's in marketing from York College of Pennsylvania.

Chavez specializes in market research and analysis, constructing pro-

posals for business development, and offers political advocacy leadership for the specialty chemical sector on a regional and national level.

Before coming to BAHEP, he has worked in the public sector of economic development organizations for more than nine years and has served as the City Manager for Los Fresnos, Texas.

He was selected by the Texas Chemical Council in 2006 to serve on the "Caring for Texas" review committee. In 2005, he was selected by the governor's office to serve on the State of Texas - Chemical Industry Task Force." Chavez in 2004, lead the Bay Area Houston region in participating in "Texas Chemical Day."

"It is an honor to be selected as one of the representatives for the Gulf Coast region," said Chavez. "I'm looking forward to contributing to the knowledge base of the economic development profession."

NASA extends contract with space institute

NASA's Johnson Space Center has awarded a five-year, \$120-million extension of its cooperative agreement with the National Space Biomedical Research Institute, also known as NSBRI, of Houston. Under the extension, the institute and NASA's Human Research Program will continue biomedical research in support of a long-term human presence in space.

The base period of the cooperative agreement began April 1, 1997, with a value of \$93.6 million. The first five-year extension was exercised in 2002, extending the agreement to Sept. 30, 2007, and increasing its value by \$148.5 million. This second five-year option will extend the agreement through Sept. 30, 2012, and increase its value by an additional \$120 million, bringing the total value to \$362 million.

The NSBRI studies the health risks related to



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

long-duration spaceflight and develops countermeasures to mitigate them. NSBRI projects address space health concerns such as bone and muscle loss, cardiovascular changes, infection, balance problems, sleep disturbances, radiation exposure effects, nutrition, physical fitness, rehabilitation, remote-treatment medical technologies and neurobehavioral and psychosocial factors.

Johnson honored

Sandra Johnson, who has always been there to help the Clear Creek School District

(CCISD), has been named its Citizen of the Year. CCISD Board of Trustees President, Robert Davee, made the presentation to the Barrios Technology President at the school district's annual Partnership and Volunteer Breakfast on May 17 at the Gilruth Center.

The award was one of several honoring CCISD's valued business partners and the many local residents who donated "more than 500,000 volunteer hours... helping our students," Mossman said.

Besides serving on the boards of the Clear Creek Education Foundation Board and the Communities in Schools-Bay Area, Superintendent Sandra Mossman noted that when the Bond Referendum failed in 2003, Johnson quickly stepped in and helped the district reshape the bond proposal and chaired the successful 2004 bond campaign.