



Kemah Boardwalk

Where Work Meets Play

HOUSTON'S BAY AREA IS A HOTBED OF TECH-RELATED ACTIVITY

By Alison Finney

Bay Area Houston has mastered a fine balance between buttoned-up and laid-back. With big attractions like the Johnson Space Center, Ellington Airport and Ellington Field, and the Kemah Boardwalk alongside a booming health care and specialty chemical industry, the Bay Area is at once a place where residents and visitors can kick up their heels and a place where the industries that are big drivers of the area's economy can settle.

BUILDING ON THE PAST

The NASA Johnson Space Center was established in 1961 and renamed for President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1973. Today the space center employs close to 14,000 people, including 50 active astronauts. Currently the largest concentration of aerospace engineers in the state of Texas resides in the Bay Area.

Culturally, the Johnson Space Center has helped the Bay Area grow, ever since the JSC's beginnings,

through the era of the Apollo missions, to today, when new technologies and new materials are being developed to build the next-generation human exploratory system that will carry humans to the moon, Mars, and beyond.

"The Johnson Space Center is a very active and busy place," said Bob Mitchell, President of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP). "Not only do we continue to have mission control for the International Space Station, but we are also right in the middle of designing and developing the Orion multipurpose crew vehicle, which is the spacecraft that will replace the shuttle orbiter."

Mitchell added that the Bay Area Economic Partnership created BayTech—the Bay Area Houston Advanced Technology Consortium—a 501(c)(3) technology consortium that brings together academia, industry, NASA/JSC, and the State of Texas. BayTech pursues federal and private

research and technology development funding that will create jobs, retain the workforce and knowledge base, generate new revenue streams, and maximize future opportunities for Texas and the greater Houston region.

Ellington Airport and Ellington Field within the Bay Area have also seen a reinvention in recent years. Ellington Field was set to be closed about seven years ago, but with the help of former Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, BAHEP's Ellington Field Task Force facilitated a partnership with the Texas Medical Center on a land swap. During the past four years, Ellington Airport has seen \$180 million worth of capital investment.

Big names like NASA, the Texas Air National Guard, the Texas Army National Guard, the U.S. Coast Guard, and others still use Ellington. In fact, the predator drones deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq are being flown from Ellington Field, which continues to develop its reputation as a top military installation in Texas.

The Coast Guard has relocated to Ellington Field and is building a four-story, 117,000-square-foot facility where 350 employees will work. Likewise, the Lone Star Flight Museum is moving from Galveston to Ellington Field. The museum will house the planes that were formerly kept in Galveston, among them 13 flying and six display airplanes, plus other vehicles from World War II.

INNOVATION AT WORK

The health care industry is the fastest-growing sector in Bay Area Houston, making it a prime spot for companies like IDEV Technologies to set up headquarters for their businesses. IDEV is an innovative company that builds medical products for interventional radiology, vascular surgery, and cardiology. Its presence in the Bay Area includes a 48,000-square-foot facility in Webster for research and manufacture of minimally invasive medical technologies such as peripheral stents.

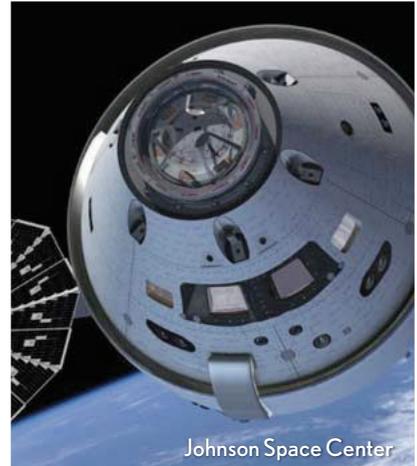
WHERE LAND MEETS SEA

The Bay Area's unique position along the coast adds to the region's economic impact—both at the Port of Houston and at the Kemah Boardwalk. In 2012, the Port of Houston created \$178.5 billion of statewide economic activity and developed more than 2.1 million total related jobs statewide.

Likewise, the Kemah-Seabrook area attracts more than three million people each year. The City of Kemah continues to develop plans for enhancements that will make it more accessible to the public. Studies are currently under way to improve parking and transportation to and from Kemah, making it easily accessible for residents and visitors alike.

Two new cruise lines will soon be sailing out of the Bayport Cruise Terminal in Pasadena. Princess Cruises will begin service in November 2013, and the Norwegian Cruise Line will begin sales in December 2013.

The Port of Houston will experience continued growth as the Panama Canal expansion is completed within the next 18 months. It is projected that between 2010 and 2015, \$28 billion in capital and maintenance investments will occur in the Ship Channel region, creating an estimated 16,000 new construction jobs. "The activity and the growth are going to be phenomenal over the next five years," said Mitchell. "We could not be better positioned to capitalize on opportunities in the maritime industry." ²⁰₁₃



Johnson Space Center



Ellington Airport

JSC Federal Credit Union,
proudly supporting the
Aerospace Community
for over 50 years.

JSC
Federal Credit Union
www.jscfcu.org | 281.488.7070

Photo Credit: NASA

We are a member of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.