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ASCEND x Texas

STRATEGIC TRANSITIONS

Aligning Stakeholders for Giant Leaps

South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center
26–27 February 2025 | Houston, Texas

PROGRAM GUIDE

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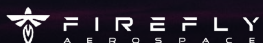
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AGENDA

WEDNESDAY | 26 FEBRUARY

1 p.m. CT

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Clay Mowry, Chief Executive Officer, AIAA

Vanessa Wyche, Director, NASA Johnson Space Center

1:15 p.m. CT

KEYNOTE: Transitions from the ISS and the Dawn of CLDs

Christie Cox, Utilization Manager, International Space Station Division, NASA

1:45 p.m. CT

Building the CLD Future: Industry Insights and Steps Forward

MODERATOR: Camille Alleyne, Founder and CEO, Arusha Space

Shahir Gerges, Director of Business Strategy, Orbital Reef

Max Haot, Chief Executive Officer, VAST

Tim Kopra, Chief Executive Officer, Starlab

Tom Marshburn, Chief Astronaut and Vice President of Human Factors, Sierra Space

George Motter, SVP, Station Program Chief Engineer, Axiom Space

3 p.m. CT

Coffee Break *Sponsored by:*



3:30 p.m. CT

Policy in Orbit: Alignment for the Commercial LEO Market

MODERATOR: Jim Bridenstine, Former NASA Administrator; Managing Partner, The Artemis Group

Karl A. Kensinger, Special Council, Space Bureau, FCC

Gabriel Swiney, Director, Policy, Advocacy, and International Division, Office of Space Commerce

4:30 p.m. CT

Texas, State of Space

Norman Garza, Director, Texas Space Commission

5 p.m. CT

Welcome Reception *Sponsored by:*



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THURSDAY | 27 FEBRUARY

7:15 a.m. CT

Networking Breakfast

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7:45 a.m. CT

Welcome and Day 1 Recap

Brian Freedman, President, BAHEP

8 a.m. CT

KEYNOTE: Giant Leaps: A Moon to Mars Update

Amit Kshatriya, Deputy Associate Administrator, Moon to Mars Program, NASA

8:30 a.m. CT

Day After Tomorrow: Upcoming Challenges and Opportunities in the Cislunar Ecosystem

MODERATOR: James Myers, Senior Vice President, Civil Systems Group, The Aerospace Corporation

Tim Cichan, Space Exploration Architect, Lockheed Martin

Chris Coker, Vice President and General Manager, Civil Space Programs & Robotics, Maxar Space Systems

David Cunniff, Space Strategist, Peraton

9:30 a.m. CT

Strategic Integrations: The Future of NASA's Operations Strategy

MODERATOR: Sam Gunderson, Lead, Partnership Development, NASA Johnson Space Center

Norman Knight, Director, Flight Operations Directorate, NASA

Holly Ridings, Director, Exploration Operations, NASA

10:15 a.m. CT

Coffee Break

Sponsored by:



10:35 a.m. CT

The Many Facets of Lunar Infrastructure

MODERATOR: Lara Kearney, Manager, Extravehicular Activity (EVA) and Human Surface Mobility Program, NASA

Tim Crain, Chief Technology Officer, Intuitive Machines

Jaret Matthews, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Astrolab

Rob Meyerson, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Interlune

11:30 a.m. CT

Interactive Discussion

12 p.m. CT

Lunch

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1 p.m. CT

Expanding Texas's Aerospace Horizon: The Texas Space Commission and TARSEC in Action

MODERATOR: Eric Berger, Senior Space Editor, Ars Technica

Dr. Greg Bonnen, M.D., Chair, House Appropriations, Committee, Texas House of Representatives

Gwen Griffin, Chair, Texas Space Commission Board of Directors

Stephanie Murphy, Chair, TARSEC Executive Committee

2 p.m. CT

People, Processes, Facilities, and Tools for Success in Coordinating Partnerships

MODERATOR: David Ladewig, Director of Business Development, Manhattan Construction Company

Sarah "Sallie Kay" Janes, Associate Vice Chancellor, Continuing and Professional Development, San Jacinto College

Todd May, Senior Vice President, Science and Space Business Unit, KBR Inc.

Kelly Page, President, Barrios

Michele Poggipolini, Chief Executive Officer, Poggipolini S.p.A.

3 p.m. CT

Coffee Break

3:30 p.m. CT

From Blueprint to Blue Marble: Optimizing Aerospace Manufacturing and Production

MODERATOR: Julie Kramer-White, Director of Engineering, NASA Johnson Space Center

Jim Baker, Founder and CEO, Arrow Science and Technology

Brittany Commins, President, Novium

Sho Nakanose, Chief Executive Officer, GITAI

Ernest Sanchez, Program Manager, Cargo Mission Contact, Leidos

4:30 p.m. CT

Closing Keynote: The Intersection of National Space Policies and Texas Aerospace Innovations

Chirag Parikh, Former Executive Secretary, National Space Council

4:45 p.m. CT

Closing Reception

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Registration Opens 24 March 2025

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