

SPACECOM

SPACE COMMERCE CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION



HOUSTON

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SpaceCom Conference and Expo to Explore Links between Space and Advanced Manufacturing Industry

HOUSTON – Operating in the harsh and unforgiving environment of space flight poses unique challenges that drive innovation and advances in technology development that have the potential to revolutionize the way manufacturing is done on Earth. The first annual [SpaceCom \(Space Commerce Conference and Exposition\)](#), set for Nov. 17-19 in Houston, will bring together thought leaders in the space and advanced manufacturing industries to explore ways that access to space and space technologies can accelerate solutions to current, real-world needs.

Innovative technologies and practices learned from investment in space are already positively affecting many areas of production, manufacturing and new material creation and testing. SpaceCom will not only highlight those [successes](#), but also address contemporary challenges with potential solutions in robotics, 3D printing and advanced materials creation to exploit the far-reaching impact space development can have on terrestrial industry.

“For some industries a particular technology is ‘advanced’ while in another that same technology could be considered either unobtainable or mundane,” said Tim Shinbara, vice president of Manufacturing Technology for the Association for Manufacturing Technology. “How do you survey the latest and greatest without dismissing the most useful? This is why attending SpaceCom is so important and why leveraging roundtables to clarify the application domain for potential technology adopters is so beneficial.”

Already, many of the emerging technologies that are reinventing and improving manufacturing on the ground are being developed hand-in-hand with efforts to enhance operations in space:

- 3D manufacturing, once a domain of heavy, bulky machines, has been miniaturized to the point where astronauts onboard the International Space Station can utilize a 3D printer in orbit.
- Autonomous systems on spacecraft are increasing in capability and complexity, and may soon be used to operate manufacturing systems on Earth.
- Woven composites being developed to protect NASA’s Orion spacecraft from thermal extremes have several applications in harsh environments on Earth.

“SpaceCom is designed to educate business leaders on tested space technologies and how to apply them to solve real-life business challenges, dramatically impacting a company’s profitability,” said James Causey, executive director of SpaceCom. “Many companies are already learning about, and adopting, these technologies in areas such as advanced manufacturing, oil and gas exploration in harsh environments, remote medicine, water purification, complex communications systems and weather data reporting. SpaceCom’s unique, interactive conference program and dynamic trade show

floor will provide a forum for dialogue, facilitated problem-solving discussions and methods to implement space technology for practical, business application and innovation.”

SpaceCom 2015 will feature conference sessions with experts in advanced manufacturing such as EOS of North America, ACME Advanced Materials, the Association for Manufacturing Technology and NASA's Johnson Space Center. A full conference program is available [here](#). SpaceCom will take place at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. Early bird [registration](#) is available through Sept. 11, allowing attendees to save up to \$300 on the full conference.

About SpaceCom

The [SpaceCom \(Space Commerce Conference and Exposition\)](#) is a dynamic three-day event engineered to fuel business innovation across the medical, energy, transportation/maritime, communications and advanced manufacturing industries. SpaceCom distinctly unites public and private stakeholders involved in domestic and international space commerce with a new group of global business executives looking for competitive advantage through the application of space technology to their industries.

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