

# SPACECOM

SPACE COMMERCE CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION

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## **SpaceCom Executive Director Sees 2015 as Pivotal Year for Commercial Space Industry**

**HOUSTON** – SpaceCom Executive Director James Causey congratulates the President and Congress on the enactment of the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act, which President Barack Obama signed into law on Nov. 25. This important legislation reinforces a new U.S. environment more favorable than ever before to commercial space development.

"The year of 2015 may well be considered an inflection point for the emerging commercial space industry," said James Causey, executive director of SpaceCom. "With the recent enactment of the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act, the ongoing establishment of commercial access to space and the successful demonstration of reusable booster technology, the beginning of a new era in affordable space transportation has truly begun. Once reserved for a few government superpowers, space has become a place for competition, commerce and entrepreneurialism on a global level."

The new law was initially introduced in Congress by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R- Calif.) and Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas), and was supported by presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas). Among its provisions, the new law extends the life of the International Space Station through 2024. It also extends the so-called 'learning period,' which will delay imposition of regulations on developers of new private launch vehicles, like Virgin Galactic, SpaceX and Blue Origin. The measure is also the first to grant rights for extraction of mineral resources from the asteroids, the moon and other celestial bodies, paving the way for space mining.

"Government is finally taking real steps to move out of the way of space entrepreneurs, while offering a supporting hand to emerging industry," said Causey. "NASA Administrator Charles Bolden stated that the space commerce industry must develop into a sustainable market that is not reliant on NASA being the sole customer during his SpaceCom keynote address on Nov. 17. This kind of clarity will really accelerate the race to build business models that take full advantage of space technology transfer to Earth-bound industries and develop new businesses in suborbital and Low Earth Orbit environments and beyond."

### **About SpaceCom**

[SpaceCom](#) (the Space Commerce Conference and Exposition) focuses on the application of space technologies to fuel business innovation across the medical, energy, transportation/maritime, communications and advanced manufacturing industries. The event is produced in collaboration with [NASA Johnson Space Center](#), [Center for the Advancement of Science in Space \(CASIS\)](#), [Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau \(GHCVB\)](#), [Houston First Corporation](#), and [National Trade Productions](#). For more information, visit [www.spacecomexpo.com](http://www.spacecomexpo.com).

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### **MEDIA CONTACT**

Melissa Wren

Griffin Communications Group

281-335-0200

[Melissa@GriffinCG.com](mailto:Melissa@GriffinCG.com)