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SpaceCom 2017 Took Deep Dive into the Business of Space

Largest commercial space event in the world draws more than 2,000 global attendees

Three-day conference helps usher in a new era in space commerce

HOUSTON – For the second consecutive year, more than 2,000 participants gathered for the [SpaceCom Expo](#) to learn about space innovations that drive smart business. The largest commercial space conference in the world, SpaceCom took place Dec. 5-7, drawing professionals from NASA, government agencies, aerospace, investment sectors. In attendance were representatives from agribusiness, energy, maritime, medical and advanced manufacturing industries who explored new opportunities and best practices for cross industry collaboration.

“The power of SpaceCom is that it connects industries and businesses that may have never thought they had something to offer each other,” said James Causey, executive director for SpaceCom. “This year, we focused our content on the business of space. Through informative sessions led by business leaders to panel break-out sessions across five tracks to a new entrepreneur workshop and competition, we continued to unveil the impact of space commercialization and the tremendous opportunities it ushers in for driving our global economy – welcoming a new era in space commerce.”

SpaceCom 2017 featured more than 120 industry leaders who served as faculty over the three-day event. Topics included: key benchmarks that measure the success of developing a sustainable low Earth orbit industry, reciprocal technology transfer between space and terrestrial industry, Earth observation applications across multiple sectors, and how the International Space Station is creating new markets and more.

Keynote speaker, Robert M. Lightfoot, NASA acting administrator, praised the evolution of the commercial space sector and underscored the need for more public-private partnerships. Rupert Pearce, CEO of Inmarsat outlined his thinking on the new era of space commerce: the global gigabit society. Additionally, Dan Kraft of the Singularity Institute demonstrated how new technologies will converge into a new “machine” like a Star Trek Tricorder to measure the health of a person.

Some highlights from the 2017 event include:

- SpaceCom continues to draw the most NASA centers, and NASA employee attendance, of any show in the world.
- More than 1,000 attendees from outside of Texas (a 20 percent increase over last year)
 - Overall U.S. participation grew 5.3%, with attendees from 40 states, plus Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico.
 - Global participation also grew to 32 represented countries.

In addition, 37 participants signed up for the first-ever [SpaceCom Entrepreneur Workshop & Competition](#), a full-day session held on Dec. 4 to help start-ups refine their business plan and pitch, as well as provide insights for identifying investment sources. Hosted by Angelus Funding, a panel of judges

chose [TapJets](#), the world's first on-demand private jet booking platform, as the winner of the Entrepreneurship Award.

"TapJets provides a comprehensive user experience via a simple, easy-to-use app that handles routing, booking and all other details associated with private jet travel," Causey said. "This team did an outstanding job of showcasing the viability and promise of their idea. As the winner, they will receive an extended meeting with an investment firm to advance their app, as well as will have a booth and speaking slot at SpaceCom 2018."

Other new elements to the 2017 event included an integrated matching system that allowed attendees and exhibitors to schedule on-site meetings in advance to build relationships and stimulate collaboration during the conference. Another well-received addition was a new Q&A app that allowed attendees to pose questions during panel discussions. All questions were then voted on by panel attendees, with winning questions posed in real-time by the moderator and answered by featured panelists.

SpaceCom 2018 will take place again at the George R. Brown Convention Center. To take part in next year's event, please visit www.spacecomexpo.com.

About SpaceCom

[The Space Commerce Conference and Expo](#) (SpaceCom) focuses on the business of space. The event is produced by [Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau \(GHCVB\)](#), [Houston First Corporation](#) and [National Trade Productions](#), in collaboration with [NASA Johnson Space Center](#) and the [Center for the Advancement of Science in Space \(CASIS\)](#). For more information, visit www.spacecomexpo.com.

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