

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 13, 2018

## **SPACECOM 2018 HIGHLIGHTS INNOVATION IN THE COMMERCIAL SPACE INDUSTRY**

**HOUSTON** – The end of November brought more than 2,200 NASA, industry and aerospace professionals from around the world to Houston’s George R. Brown Convention Center for [SpaceCom 2018](#). Attendees explored new space commerce opportunities and best practices for cross-industry collaboration.

“SpaceCom focused on interactive exchanges and fostered connections that allowed attendees to explore how space innovations could improve profits,” said James Causey, executive director for SpaceCom. “Through informative sessions led by business leaders, we continued to unveil the opportunities within space commercialization and provide a meeting ground for new contacts.”

SpaceCom 2018 featured more than 130 industry leaders who served as faculty over the two-day event. The program featured technology convergence panels that focused on how AI, cybersecurity, and data analytics used by space-based assets can provide critical services to industries on Earth. This year’s keynote speakers showed the international influence on the market with the CEO of India’s Antrix Corporation, the Deputy Head of Australia’s new Space Agency and a Unit Head of Italy’s Space Agency. The roster also included commercial space gurus, such as George T. Whitesides from Virgin Galactic and The Spaceship Company and Tory Bruno of United Launch Alliance.

“SpaceCom has now become part of the commercial space infrastructure,” said Causey, “As we move into 2019 we expect to deepen our relationship with Kevin O’Connell, director of the Office of Space Commerce at the U.S. Department of Commerce, as well as NASA.”

### **SPACECOM 2018 HIGHLIGHTS**

Vanessa Wyche, deputy administrator for the Johnson Space Center read a letter from [NASA Administrator Bridenstine](#) that discussed the impact SpaceCom can have on the commercial space industry in light of recent policy directives from the White House and Congress.

Additional highlights included:

- The National Space Council’s Users Advisory Group held a feedback listening session that allowed attendees to express their views and ask questions on a range of space policy issues.
- The Global Spaceport Summit (GSA) was held on November 26 and saw participation from 19 spaceports from around the world. Newly appointed GSA Chair, Dr. George Nield, former head of FAA’s Office of Commercial Space Transportation, led the meeting and discussions on common challenges and brainstormed initiatives for a broad range of revenue opportunities.

This year brought a rebrand opportunity to the SpaceCom Entrepreneur Workshop & Competition – now known as the [SpaceCom Entrepreneur Summit \(SES\)](#). Held over the course of two days, this Summit helped start-ups refine their business plan and pitch while providing insights for identifying investment sources. A new element of the Summit was the opportunity for the start-ups to showcase their new technology and ideas in the SpaceCom Exhibit Hall. More than 20 companies participated in the pavilion and more than 50 were involved in SES.

On Wednesday, November 28, this Summit culminated in a plenary session where the top five finalists presented their business plans. The audience, along with the judges, selected [Lazarus 3D](#) as the winner of the \$100,000 in Google Cloud credits.

“Lazarus 3D utilizes cutting-edge 3D printing technologies to provide the best medical training models for medical professionals to improve surgery planning, minimize medical errors, and revolutionize best

practices in medicine,” Causey said. “Lazarus 3D President and Founder, Dr. Jacques Zaneveld understands that his technology has vast applications in addressing the urgent needs in transforming surgery training here on earth and in space.” As the winner, Lazarus 3D will also receive an extended meeting with an investment firm, as well a booth and speaking slot at SpaceCom 2019.

SpaceCom 2019 is poised to grow and continue to be the meeting place to discuss the commercial space industry. Save the date for next year’s event at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, TX, November 20-21. To take part in next year’s event, please visit [www.spacecomexpo.com](http://www.spacecomexpo.com).

**About SpaceCom**

[SpaceCom – The Space Commerce Conference and Exposition](http://www.spacecomexpo.com), is where NASA, aerospace and industry convene to network, gain insights on space exploration and tech transfer opportunities from experts, and discover cutting-edge technology in an interactive exhibit hall. The event is produced by, [Houston First Corporation](http://www.houstonfirst.com) and [National Trade Productions](http://www.nationaltrade.com), in collaboration with [NASA](http://www.nasa.gov). For more information, visit [www.spacecomexpo.com](http://www.spacecomexpo.com).

###

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Whitney Bell  
NTP Events  
703-706-8254  
[wbell@ntpevents.com](mailto:wbell@ntpevents.com)