

Florida's Space Workers and the New Approach to Human Spaceflight **April 15, 2010**

The Administration is committed to a bold, new approach to human spaceflight, and is increasing the NASA budget by \$6 billion over the next five years in order to embark on this ambitious strategy that will foster the development of path-breaking technologies, increase the reach and reduce the cost of human spaceflight, and help create thousands of new jobs. Along with the already planned end of the Shuttle program, this transformation will have an impact on the critical space industry in Florida.

Building on its significant new investments to help Florida retain its important role in NASA's human space programs, the Administration today is taking additional steps to help Florida's Space Coast adjust and succeed in the years ahead. Most importantly, the Administration is launching a \$40 million, multi-agency initiative to help the Space Coast transform its economy and prepare its workers for the opportunities of tomorrow. This effort will build on and complement ongoing economic and workforce development efforts by convening a task force comprised of senior-level Administration officials to construct an economic development action plan for the President's review within 120 days. In addition to this assistance, the Administration will work to jumpstart the commercial space industry at Kennedy Space Center; dedicate more than \$2 billion in funds to modernize Kennedy Space Center's facilities; and restructure the Orion crew exploration vehicle program to a more efficient design for a crew emergency escape capsule.

Compared to the prior path we were on, the President's new plan for human spaceflight is expected to generate more than 2,500 additional jobs in the Kennedy Space Center area by 2012.

PREPARING FLORIDA'S SPACE WORKERS FOR THE JOBS OF TOMORROW

The men and women who work in the Space Coast's aerospace industry are some of the most talented and highly trained in the nation. It's critical that their skills are tapped as we transform and grow the country's space exploration efforts. The 2004 decision to end the Shuttle means that approximately 6,000 jobs need to be transitioned into the new space strategy and related industries. To ease the transition for workers dislocated while the new space strategy is being implemented, the President is proposing to dedicate \$40 million of the funds requested for the Constellation transition to transform the regional economy and prepare its workforce for these new opportunities.

The President will select a high-level team of senior officials from the Departments of Defense, Commerce, and Labor; NASA; and the White House to develop a plan for regional economic growth and retraining dislocated workers to seize new work opportunities. The team will report its recommendations to the President by August 15. This interagency group's recommendations will build on the Administration's on-going efforts in the region. The Department of Labor is already planning a pilot program to better assist the region's workers, including those highly-skilled workers who work in the aerospace industry, through efforts to establish one-stop local transition centers for affected workers where they can receive coordinated local, state, and federal workforce assistance tied to economic development efforts; and the designation of a one-stop-shop federal point-of-contact for affected areas.

To further facilitate these efforts, the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is prepared to support a comprehensive economic adjustment strategy for the Kennedy Space Center economic region. With funding provided through NASA, the EDA will provide both financial and technical assistance to start implementing those plans and promote economic development in the region through such activities as infrastructure upgrades and improvements, entrepreneurial networks, and skill-training facilities and equipment. The exact mix of activities will depend on the recommendations and request of local entities across the region.

Working with local and state partners, the EDA also will analyze whether other proven assistance efforts can be implemented in the area, including: additional economic development resources such as enhanced capital funding to support efforts to start new technology ventures based on the specific skills of dislocated engineers; technical assistance to guide public officials, management, and labor through a local economic adjustment effort; and Federal Team Visits to further support local adjustment efforts.

INVESTING IN KENNEDY SPACE CENTER AND THE SPACE COAST

In order to expand our potential in space, the President is committed to increasing the NASA budget in FY 2011 and each of the next five years. This will mean more people working in the aerospace industry to support NASA programs and missions. In order to harness Florida's unique and talented workforce, the Kennedy Space Center has been selected to manage several of the new programs in the President's FY 2011 budget request. All told, the President's new plan is expected to generate more than 2,500 additional jobs in the Kennedy Space Center area by 2012, as compared to the prior path.

Highlights include:

- ***Jumpstarting a new industry and thousands of new jobs.*** A new Commercial Crew Development Program Office at the Kennedy Space Center will manage \$500 million in FY 2011 and \$5.8 billion over five years to foster private-sector transportation services to Earth orbit. Florida would also be a beneficiary of the new Commercial Crew and cargo investments, which an independent analysis projects will create more than 10,000 jobs nationwide over the next five years.*
- ***Modernizing Kennedy Space Center so it remains a world-class launch port for decades to come.*** A new 21st Century Launch Complex Program Office at the Kennedy Space Center will manage \$429 million in FY 2011 and \$1.9 billion over five years to modernize the Kennedy Space Center's facilities to reduce launch costs not only for NASA, but for other users. These investments will create hundreds of jobs by 2012, upgrade Kennedy Space Center's facilities for the 21st century, and ensure that the Kennedy Space Center will remain a world-class launch port for decades to come, attracting new commercial business in addition to reliably and efficiently supporting government flights.
- ***Helping make the I-4 corridor the Silicon Valley of space.*** A new Flagship Technology Demonstrations Deputy Program Office will help manage, along with the Johnson Space Center's Program Office, \$424 million in FY 2011 and \$6 billion over five years to demonstrate transformational technologies for next-generation space flight capabilities.