



North Carolina  
Aerospace Alliance



FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 30, 2009

## **INAUGURAL NORTH CAROLINA ENTREPRENEURIAL SPACE INDUSTRY (NEWSPACE) FORUM SET FOR NOVEMBER 12, 2009 AT ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY**

Elizabeth City, NC – October 30, 2009 – Elizabeth City State University, supported by the North Carolina Aerospace Alliance and NASA Space Grant, will convene North Carolina's first entrepreneurial space industry (NewSpace) forum on November 12<sup>th</sup>. A reception will be held November 11<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm at the Arts of the Albemarle.

The forum has two goals:

1. Educate state and local government, business, and academic leaders about the economic development potential of the NewSpace industry
2. Develop a "next-steps" strategy for the development of an indigenous NewSpace industry that is integrated with the state's existing aviation- and aerospace-related industry clusters

Registration opens at 8:30am, and Elizabeth City State University Chancellor Willie Gilchrist will begin the forum at 9am. "Our aviation and space science students are very excited about the pending space tourism flights of Virgin Galactic and the jobs this will create," said Chancellor Gilchrist.

The morning includes a review by NewSpace business consultant Jeff Krukin of the NewSpace industry and its economic development potential for North Carolina's northeast region and across the state. An afternoon panel will include experts on the following topics:

- Business prospects for North Carolina aviation and aerospace companies
- The military's support of and need for the NewSpace industry
- NASA's support of and need for the NewSpace industry
- The role of state government
- Commercial spaceport application process

"There are remote runways in our state that would be suitable for a commercial spaceport," explained Dr. J. Anthony Sharp, Director of the ECSU Aviation Science Program, which includes a Space Science minor. "It is a little-known fact that in the 1990's, Lockheed Martin visited our region when they were scouting for a spaceport for its *VentureStar* commercial spacecraft."

"With the NewSpace industry poised for growth in other states, North Carolina's aviation and aerospace companies are at risk of missing business opportunities being created by this emerging industry," said Bill Greuling, Vice President of the North Carolina Aerospace Alliance. "If you want your business to benefit from NewSpace, and if you want your state government to help create a North Carolina NewSpace industry, then you need to be at this event."

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