

Upcoming Forum Highlights Ohio's Space Ecosystem

Each year, the Ohio Space Forum brings national attention to the latest developments in space from a variety of vantage points, including public, private, academic, military, and federal. This year's forum, scheduled on May 18th at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, will feature discussions on Ohio's role in leading space industrialization by enabling life and operations beyond Earth. Within the theme are four focus areas that reflect Ohio's Aerospace and Defense Strategy. These focus areas offer perspectives on how Ohio's federal aerospace and defense installations, research and development entities, industry retention and attraction efforts, and robust workforce each contribute the future of aviation and space exploration in our state.

Over 550 private aviation and aerospace companies have an Ohio presence, contributing immensely to the critically important space work happening around the state. These companies' source much of their top talent from Ohio's many colleges and universities which collectively graduate more than 13,000 engineers and engineering technicians each year. Our renowned network of educational institutions includes Ohio University, the University of Cincinnati, the University of Dayton, Case Western Reserve University and The Ohio State University.

Additionally, Ohio ranks 7th in the nation for aerospace and defense jobs, boasting over 38,000 private aerospace and aviation professionals, many of whom work at the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Battelle and the Ohio Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center. These employers, along with the aforementioned educational institutions, create a vibrant research and development ecosystem in the state.

In addition to our academic and industrial strength, Ohio is geographically fortunate. Dubbed by Intel as "the Silicon Heartland", our location in the middle of the eastern half of the United States puts over 60% of the North American population within a one-day drive from our borders. This market proximity provides Ohio with access to a robust supply chain, customers, and workforce, making it very attractive for growth and investment. With our strong mix of government, corporate and military investment, as well as our ability to leverage an array of infrastructure and manufacturing expertise, our ranking as the #2 state in the nation for aerospace attractiveness comes as no surprise.

The Ohio Space Forum provides every attendee to learn more about our aerospace attractiveness and gain a wholistic perspective on how the state continues to lead in aerospace and aviation. At the forum, industry leaders can discover growth opportunities for businesses in Ohio, and academic and government leaders can build relationships that create the synergy necessary to support our nation's vital space missions.

This year's event features several nationally recognized thought leaders in space intelligence, exploration, and defense. Participants can expect briefings from many notable subject matter experts including:

- Col (ret) Pamela Melroy, Deputy Administrator, NASA
- Mr. Jim Free, Associate Administrator for Exploration Systems Development, NASA
- Dr. Marla Pérez-Davis, Director, National Aeronautics and Space Administration John H. Glenn Research Center

- Col (ret) Joe Zeis, Senior Advisor for Aerospace and Defense, Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine
- Col Mauricio Calabrese, Commander, National Air and Space Intelligence Center

Additionally, other leaders from government, academia and industry will share their expertise on panels. These subject matter experts will share their perspectives on an array of topics including Ohio's role in national security in space; the state and scope of research development in the space arena; and Ohio's supply chain capabilities to support our space industrialization efforts.

These discussions will further illuminate the immense potential of statewide public, private and academic partnerships to build upon Ohio's status as an aerospace leader and continue paving the way towards advancing the nation's space exploration objectives.

To register for the Ohio Space Forum and discover more about this premier opportunity to link with state and national leaders, visit www.orbitohio.com. Registration is open to the public and is available until May 3rd for all United States citizens.