THE GATEWAY TO SPACE®

SPACEPORTAMERICA®

THE WORLD'S FIRST
PURPOSE-BUILT COMMERCIAL SPACEPORT

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 3
NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEP'T 4
NMSA STATUATORY LANGUAGE & ORG. CHART 5
SPACEPORT GOVERNANCE 6
U.S. SPACEPORTS & NMSA STRATEGY 7
ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT 8
TENANTS AND CUSTOMERS 9
TENANT SPOTLIGHT | VIRGIN GALACTIC 10
CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT | USAF THUNDERBIRDS 11
TENANT SPOTLIGHT | UP AEROSPACE 12
CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT | CASTELION 13
TENANT SPOTLIGHT | HERMEUS 14
CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT | PRECISION AI 15
TENANT SPOTLIGHT | SWIFT ENGINEERING 16
CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT | VENUS AEROSPACE 17
FILM PROJECTS 18
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH 19
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 20
2025 OPEN HOUSE 21
REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS 22
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT 23
CAPITAL PROJECTS 24-25

VMS Eve, Virgin Galactic's carrier plane, in transit from Spaceport America in New Mexico to Mesa, Ariz., in November 2025 (photo credit: Virgin Galactic)

On the cover | Venus Aerospace's test of the first Rotating Detonation Rocket Engine (RDRE) in the U.S. took place at Spaceport America in May of 2025 (photo credit: Venus Aerospace)

Credits | This publication was designed, written and edited in part by Spaceport America personnel with additional use of AI-generated text. Unless otherwise indicated, all images are courtesy of Spaceport America.

Publication Date | January 8, 2026

For inquiries, please reach out to the email address below which best corresponds to the topic:

media@spaceportamerica.com

aerospace@spaceportamerica.com

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Imagine a city on the Mississippi River without a port. From the shore, you watch as ships pass – but none can dock. Over time, towns that invested in ports became hubs for trade, travel, industry, and cultural exchange.

New Mexico made a comparable investment—only our port connects to space, the next frontier of transportation, research, jobs, and economic development. History is consistent on one point: transportation infrastructure expands what a region can do. From Roman roads to English canals, rail, airports, and ports of entry, these systems become catalysts—enabling new businesses, attracting talent, creating personal wealth, and accelerating innovation.

Spaceport America is steadily advancing the vision first explored in the early 1990s. What began as an initiative within the Governor's Office and the Economic Development Department evolved into the Southwest Regional Spaceport and ultimately the New Mexico Spaceport Authority—created to build and operate the world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport.

This past year, New Mexico State University's Center for Economic Development (C-BED) independently assessed Spaceport America's economic impact. For example, the study estimates that in calendar year 2023, the spaceport supported **985 jobs** and generated **$122 million** in "new money" entering the regional economy. Across the six-year period analyzed, total value-added production reached **$491 million**—nearly half a billion dollars of activity tied to the spaceport's presence and operations.

Meanwhile, the global space economy continues to expand, with launch and space-related activity accelerating nationwide. If New Mexico intends to participate in this growth—through aerospace, advanced manufacturing, testing, research, and the high-quality jobs that come with them—we must maintain a reliable gateway that connects the Land of Enchantment to space.

In this third edition of our Annual Report, we invite you to explore the increased activity at Spaceport America, the progress achieved this year, and the steps ahead. No great region thrives without connectivity—and in the 21st century, that connectivity increasingly includes access to space.

Scott McLaughlin | Executive Director
Spaceport America

Members of the 2025 Leadership New Mexico cohort post in front of SpinLaunch's suborbital launch system in January of 2025.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDD CABINET SECRETARY

It's impossible to think of Spaceport America without that wide-eyed feeling of being a kid again, back in rural New Mexico, gazing up at the skies in wonder, dreaming of what comes next. In many ways, Spaceport America is turning that wonder into reality.

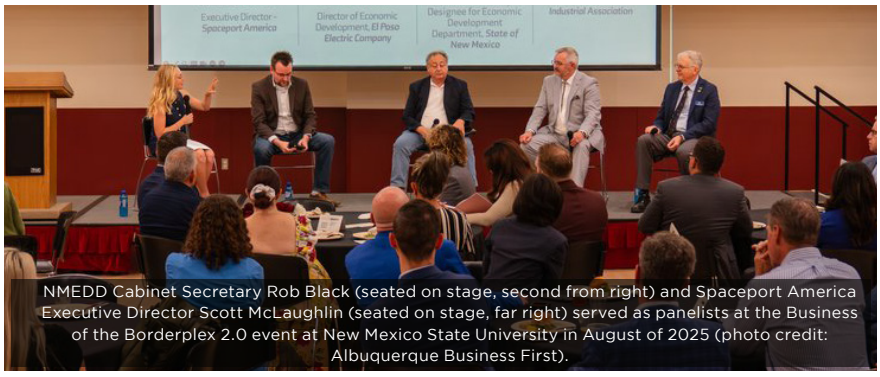
This past year has made one thing unmistakably clear: New Mexico is emerging as the next frontier for breakthrough technologies that will shape America's future — advanced energy, advanced computing, and, as we're celebrating in this report, an ever-growing space and defense sector.

A quick look at Spaceport's economic impact report from earlier this year illustrates how these pivotal industries are taking root here and why companies are choosing New Mexico to build what comes next.

Companies understand that New Mexico is a place where advanced industries can grow with purpose and drive in an ecosystem that supports innovation. With top-tier research institutions, exceptional talent, and a spirit that continually pushes boundaries, our state is shaping state-of-the-art aerospace.

And at the center of it all, Spaceport America stands as the anchor institution for advancement — turning imagination into opportunity, and possibility into progress.

Rob Black | Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Economic Development Department
Chair, New Mexico Spaceport Authority Board of Directors

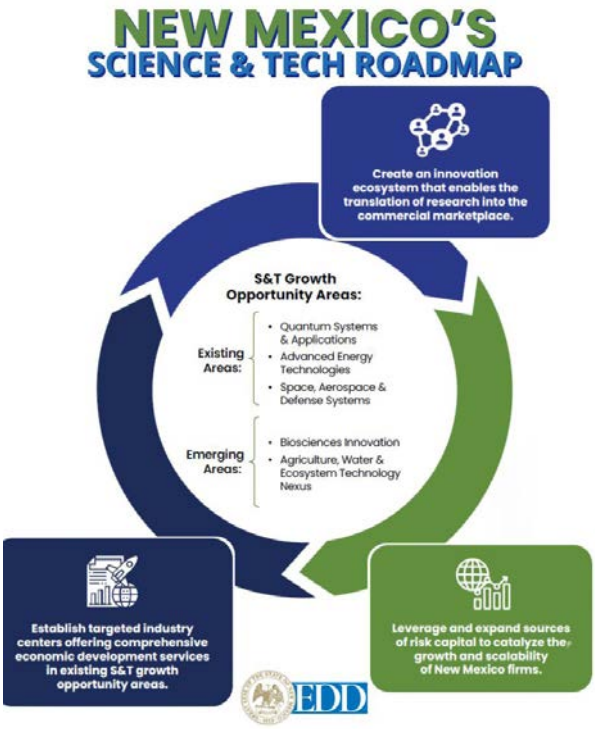


NMEDD Cabinet Secretary Rob Black (seated on stage, second from right) and Spaceport America Executive Director Scott McLaughlin (seated on stage, far right) served as panelists at the Business of the Borderplex 2.0 event at New Mexico State University in August of 2025 (photo credit: Albuquerque Business First).

Learn more about the New Mexico Economic Development Department (edd.newmexico.gov)

EDD Economic Development Department

The mission of the New Mexico Economic Development Department is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive.



In December 2025, New Mexico unveiled a strategic roadmap aimed at transforming the state's world-class research capabilities into sustained economic growth and high-paying jobs.

Developed by the Economic Development Department's Technology and Innovation Office in collaboration with TEConomy Partners, the **New Mexico Science & Technology Roadmap** identifies the technology sectors where the state holds significant competitive advantages and provides a clear strategy to leverage them.

The roadmap highlights three primary "powerhouse" opportunity areas: quantum technologies, advanced energy technologies, and aerospace and defense systems. It also identifies emerging opportunities in biosciences and technologies at the intersection of agriculture and water.

Learn more about the New Mexico Science & Technology Roadmap (edd.newmexico.gov/pr/science-technology-roadmap/)

NMSA STATUATORY LANGUAGE

The New Mexico Spaceport Authority shall:

A. Encourage and foster development of the state and its cities and counties by developing spaceport facilities in New Mexico;

B. Actively promote and assist public and private sector infrastructue development to attract new industries and businesses, thereby creating new job opportunities in the state;

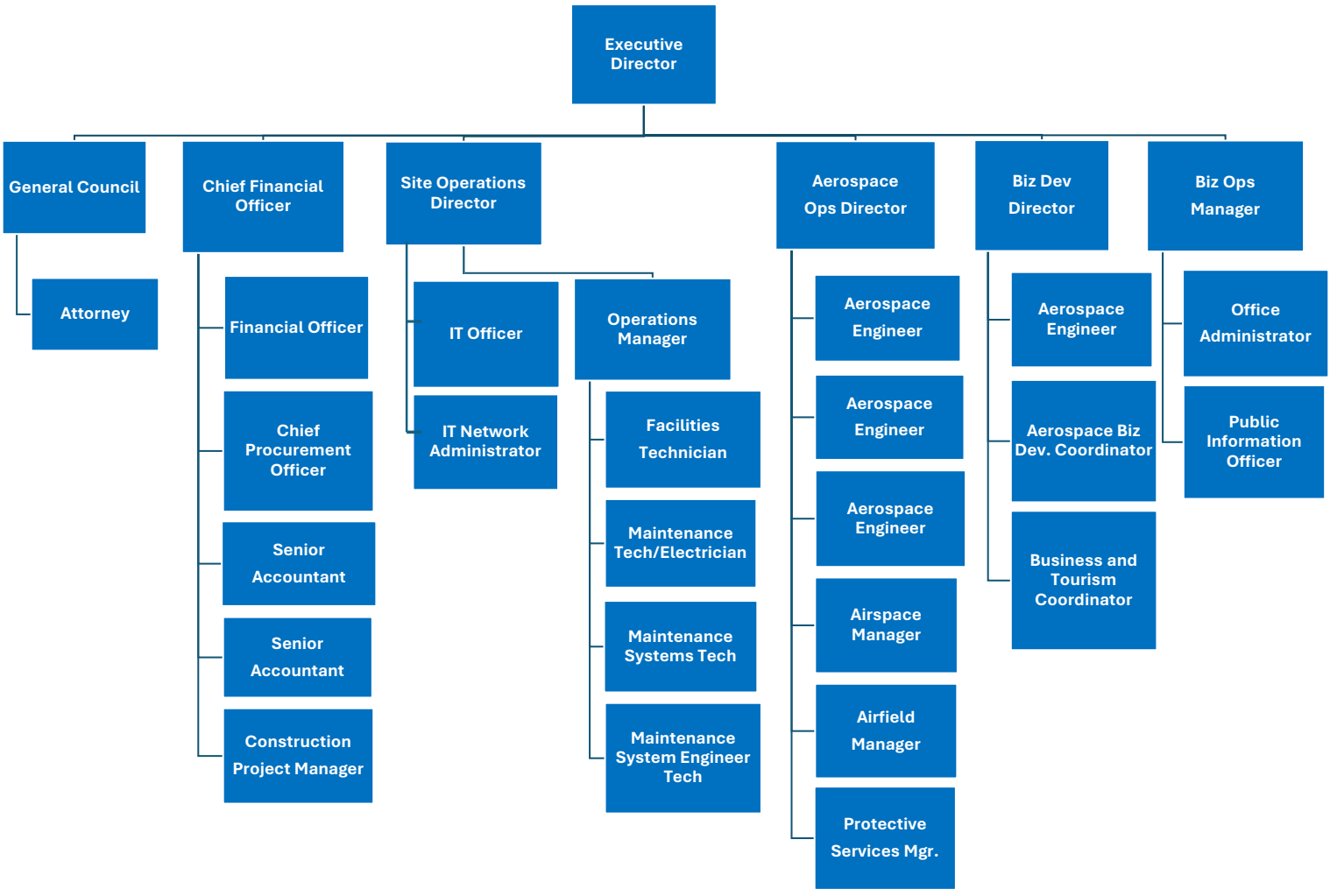
C. Create the statutory framework that will enable the state to design, finance, construct, equip and operate spaceport facilities necessary to ensure the timely, planned and efficient development of a southwest regional spaceport; and

D. Promote educational involvement in spaceport activities and education and training of the workforce to develop the skills needed for spaceport operations.

58-31-1 NMSA 1978

In the presence of state representative Dayan Hochman-Vigil (far left), representatives from the New Mexico State Land Office (top, standing) and Spaceport America Executive Director Scott McLaughlin (far right, seated) sign a new 40-year land lease in March of 2025.

NMSA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



GOVERNANCE

Beyond its statutory mission, Spaceport America is dedicated to driving progress and creating opportunities for the citizens of New Mexico. Since its inception, taxpayers and legislators in Doña Ana and Sierra counties have been vital partners, making the success of the world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport possible through their support. Elected officials at the city, county, and state levels have also played an instrumental role in Spaceport America's development over the past two decades.

Situated on 18,000 acres of New Mexico State Land Trust property, Spaceport America maintains a strong partnership with the New Mexico State Land Office to responsibly develop this land for the benefit of its tenants, customers, and stakeholders.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The New Mexico Spaceport Authority Board of Directors consists of nine members: the chair, two ex officio, with six appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. By statute, no more than three of the appointed members shall belong to the same political party. Members serve staggered four-year terms.

Howie Morales (Ex Officio and Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico), Rob Black (Chair of the Board and Cabinet Secretary of the Economic Development Department for the State of New Mexico), Peggy S. Johnson, Eric Schindwolf, Ethan Epstein, Patricia Sullivan, Wayne Savage, Dolores Lucero, Stephanie Luongo

TAX DISTRICT BOARD

Established in 2005, the Tax District Board is the entity which which receives and distributes excess revenue from the Doña Ana County and Sierra County 0.25% Spaceport gross receipts tax. The District's Board of Directors consists of six members that includes four elected officials appointed by the respective county commissioners of Doña Ana and Sierra counties. The board also includes two statewide directors appointed by the governor.

Manny Sanchez (chair and Doña Ana County Commissioner), James Paxon (vice-chair and Sierra County Commissioner), Hank Hopkins (Sierra County Commissioner), Eric Enriquez (Mayor of Las Cruces, N.M.), Kim Skinner (Mayor Pro Tempore of Elephant Butte, N.M.), Susana Chaparro (Doña Ana County Commissioner)

To learn more about the governance of Spaceport America, view upcoming meetings of the boards, and access meeting archives, visit http://spaceportamerica.com/governance.

NMSA Board of Directors Ex Officio and Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico Howie Morales addresses a crowd at the 2025 Spaceport America Open House.

U.S. SPACEPORTS

(graphic provided by the Federal Aviation Administration)

For additional information about spaceport and the FAA, visit https://www.faa.gov/space/office_space-ports

Spaceport America is one of just 14 FAA-licensed spaceports in the United States, and it stands alone as the only facility authorized for both horizontal and vertical launch operations. The spaceport operates under a joint Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range, granting its tenants, customers, and clients access to restricted airspace. This controlled environment is essential for conducting safe and secure aerospace activities.

The facility is divided into three distinct operational areas: the Horizontal Launch Area, the Vertical Launch Area, and the Advanced Technology Area. Each area is designed to offer specialized benefits tailored to the specific needs of its users, depending on the nature of their work.

In 2025, the number of FAA-licensed orbital commercial space launches reached 187, representing a 27.2 percent increase over the previous year and a dramatic 379.5 percent rise since 2020, when only 39 launches occurred. Although the United States currently has no inland orbital launch sites, Spaceport America is positioning itself to become one of the first within the next decade.

NMSA STRATEGY | NEXT FIVE YEARS

- Continue to work with Virgin Galactic to maximize their economic impact.
- Focus on regional growth, including working with economic development organizations.
- Infrastructure improvements to be site-ready for new customers continue to be ongoing.
- The acquisition of an FAA orbital reentry license and working toward orbital launch capability
- Continuing to develop other revenue streams from a diversity of customers

Prepared by RS&H, POPULOUS, and Zia Engineering and Environmental, the Spaceport America master plan was released in the spring of 2025. The plan's high-level purpose is to define potential demand-driven development with estimated capital investment over the next decade.

View Spaceport America's Master Plan (https://www.spaceportamerica.com/master-plan/)

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY | 2019-24

In August 2025, the **Arrowhead Center** and the **Center for Border Economic Development (C-BED)** at **New Mexico State University** released a comprehensive study analyzing Spaceport America's economic impact on the state from 2019 through 2024. Commissioned by the New Mexico Spaceport Authority (NMSA), the report focuses specifically on operations not funded by the state, with an emphasis on tenant activities and spending by out-of-state visitors connected to the spaceport.

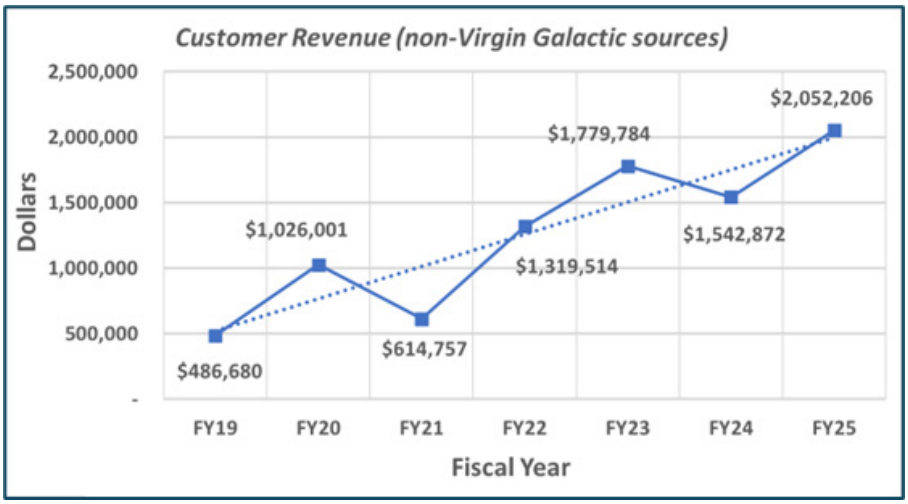
This publication marks the second collaborative economic impact study between NMSA and the C-BED team. The first, released in August 2023, examined the spaceport's influence during the 2022 calendar year. The latest report builds on that foundation, offering year-by-year data that provides a more complete picture of Spaceport America's cumulative economic contributions. The analysis includes detailed insights into tenant employment, privately funded construction projects, visitor spending, spaceport-generated revenues, tax impacts, and overall economic output. It also features an overview of the commercial space industry, along with a summary of Spaceport America's tenant base and related activities.

The table below presents a breakdown of the estimated annual economic impact of Spaceport America's operations and activities across the six-year study period.

Impact	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Direct Jobs	242	487	221	549	431	313
Total Jobs	396	896	609	811	985	790
Economic Output	$72,265,317	$196,511,257	$168,920,735	$138,080,756	$266,020,386	$239,784,359
Value-Added Production	$31,756,350	$91,988,529	$74,519,634	$60,435,345	$122,419,195	$110,769,271
Labor Income	$22,273,071	$59,209,861	$52,648,224	$45,845,649	$81,428,508	$73,118,968
Total Taxes:	$7,335,456	$19,058,128	$16,535,240	$12,907,325	$27,192,833	$24,405,576
Federal	$4,818,874	$13,223,950	$11,044,930	$9,161,760	$18,425,948	$16,646,473
New Mexico	$2,239,220	$5,834,178	$5,490,310	$3,745,475	$8,766,885	$7,759,103

Complete Economic Impact Study (PDF) (https://www.spaceportamerica.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Economic-Impact-of-Spaceport-America-2019-2024.pdf)

CUSTOMER REVENUE* | FY19-FY25



With an influx of new tenants and customers, Spaceport America continues to create new revenue streams. *From FY19 to FY25, the Spaceport America has experienced a 321-percent increase revenue from customers other than Virgin Galactic.

CURRENT TENANTS & CUSTOMERS*

Spaceport America's anchor tenant, Virgin Galactic is building the world's first spaceline. Founded by Richard Branson and the Virgin Group conglomorate, Virgin Galactic has flown nine separate missions to space since May of 2021.
www.VirginGalactic.com

SpinLaunch is revolutionizing access to space by building a kinetically powered system to put constellations of satellites into space. They have constructed the world's largest evacuated centrifuge at Spaceport America and have executed 10 test flights since 2021.
www.spinlaunch.com

Swift Engineering is an innovation company with a 35-year history of design, engineering and build heritage in intelligent systems and advanced vehicles, including autonomous systems, helicopters, submarines, spacecraft, ground vehicles, robotics, and advanced composites for military, healthcare, agriculture and industrial applications.
www.SwiftEngineering.com

Isotropic Networks, Inc., is the leading global provider of converged connectivity services and network management solutions. Isotropic owns and operates teleports on three continents, enabling global coverage and a level of flexibility that is unprescedented in the satellite industry.
www.isotropic.network

Hermeus is a high-speed aircraft manufacturer focused on the rapid design, build, and test of high-Mach and hypersonic aircraft for the national interest. Utilizing an integrated, hardware-rich, iterative development approach to aircraft design and build, Hermeus aims to deliver advanced air power at a pace not seen in the U.S. since the 1950s.
www.Hermeus.com

A defense technology startup led by former SpaceX engineers, Castelion is forging the future of hypersonic strike weapons through modern defense production. Based in El Segundo, Calif., the startup is creating affordable, mass-produced hypersonic long-range strike weapons that serve as a non-nuclear deterrent.
www.Castelion.com

Prismatic started working with UAS in 2011, formed by a team with experience in these systems reaching back to the early 2000s. BAE Systems started working with Prismatic in 2017, and acquired the company in 2021.
www.prismaticltd.co.uk

Stratolaunch is an aerospace company specializing in hypersonic flight testing and technology development. The company is best known for operating Roc, the world's largest aircraft. Stratolaunch focuses on advancing integrated air-launched systems, including the Talon-A testbeds, capable of reaching speeds exceeding Mach 5+. Through its hypersonic mission, Stratolaunch aims to enhance national security, accelerate aerospace innovation, and contribute to the future of high-speed flight.
www.Stratolaunch.com

UP Aerospace is a space launch and flight test service provider specializing in advanced engineering, launch technology development, and state-of-the-art rapid and low cost launch operations. Its headquarters are located in Denver, Colorado, with launch facilities at Spaceport America in New Mexico.
www.UPAerospace.com

AeroVironment provides customers with more actionable intelligence so they can proceed with certainty. Based in California, AeroVironment is a global leader in unmanned aircraft systems and tactical missile systems, and serves defense, government and commercial customers.
www.AVinc.com

Each year since 2021, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds have utilized Spaceport America as their winter training ground. During this month-long training period, the Thunderbirds hone their skills for the dozens of air shows they take part in through the year.
www.airforce.com/thunderbirds/overview

With world headquarters in Regina, Saskatchewan (Canada) and a United States base of operations in San Francisco, Calif., Precision AI is designing the machines of tomorrow that will feed the world. Spaceport America has served as a development and testing ground for one such of these machines - the *Stratus AirSprayer™*.
www.Precision.ai

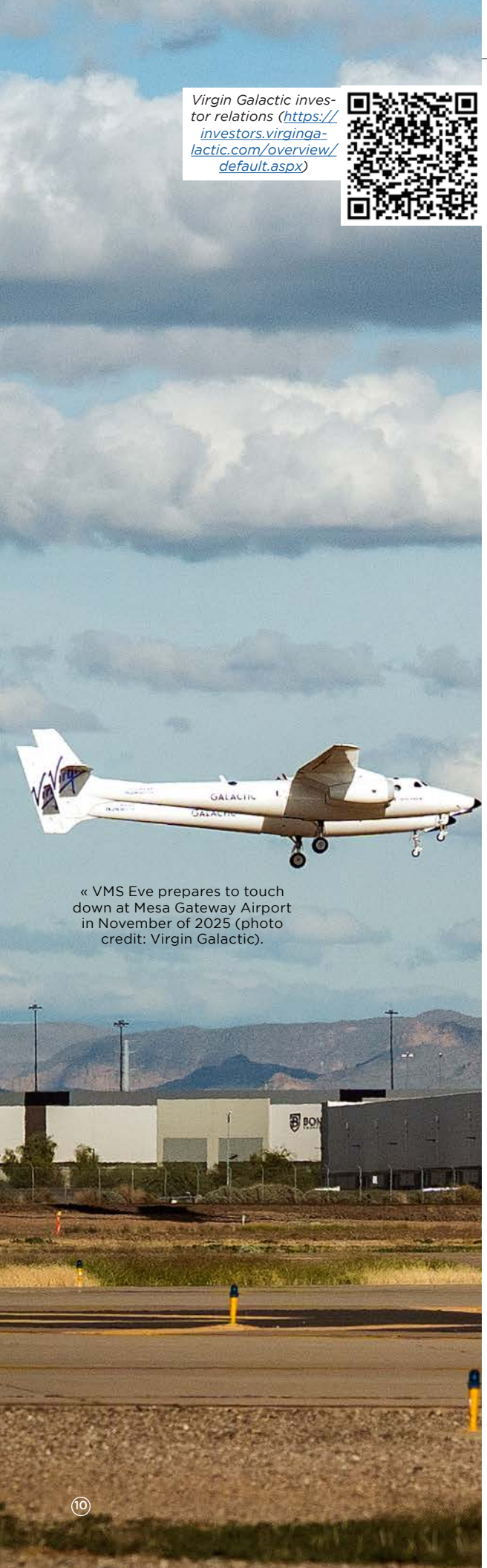
HAPSMobile Inc. is a subsidiary of SoftBank Corp. that plans and operates a High Altitude Platform Station (HAPS) business with the aim of bridging the world's digital divide. HAPSMobile is primarily engaged in network equipment research and development for the HAPS business, construction of core networks, new business planning and activities for spectrum usage.
www.aerospacebiz.jaxa.jp/en/spacecompany/hapsmobile

Texas Rocket Engineering Lab (TREL) is a student laboratory in the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics at The University of Texas at Austin. The interdisciplinary research lab is building the next generation of rocket engineers.
www.texasrocketlab.ae.utexas.edu

Venus Aerospace has built the first generational improvement in rocket engine technology since the Apollo missions. After the fastest and most capital-efficient rocket engine development in history, on May 14, 2025, Venus executed the first ever test flight of a high-thrust rotating detonation rocket engine (RDRE), ushering in the future of rocket propulsion.
www.VenusAero.com

Founded in 2016, Lucid will build the world's best cars and accelerate the shift to clean energy. The company's vehicles deliver best-in-class performance and efficiency. Lucid operates in a state-of-the-art factory in Arizona as well as its global headquarters in California's Silicon Valley.
www.LucidMotors.com

*Not all customers are shown



Virgin Galactic investor relations (https://investors.virgingalactic.com/overview/default.aspx)

« VMS Eve prepares to touch down at Mesa Gateway Airport in November of 2025 (photo credit: Virgin Galactic).

Commercial Spaceline Operations

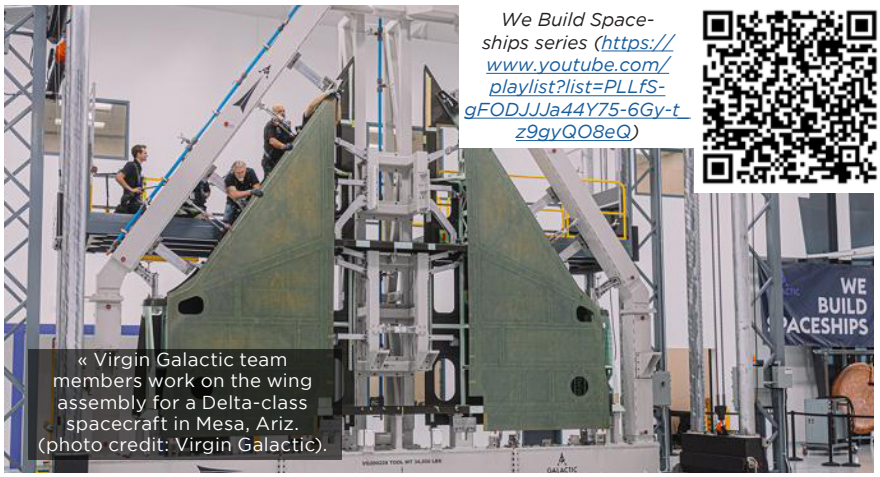
Virgin Galactic made major strides in 2025, focusing on spacecraft manufacturing with the assembly of its new Delta-class spaceships underway in Mesa, Arizona.

In Q3 2026 Virgin Galactic is preparing to bring its first new spaceship to New Mexico to complete its flight test program, before its first scheduled commercial flight in Q4, 2026.

Throughout the year, Virgin Galactic released a series of video updates documenting the progress of the Delta-class spaceship. The **We Build Spaceships** series and the **Galactic 10** series offer viewers behind-the-scenes insights to the build progress as the company prepares to reengage in commercial spaceflight.

These next-generation spaceships are designed to fly up to eight missions per month, each carrying six passengers. With the initial fleet of two spaceships and one launch vehicle Virgin Galactic has stated it will be capable of flying up to 750 people annually.

As part of its upcoming flight operations, Virgin Galactic will continue to expand access to space for researchers, government and educational institutions. They have introduced advanced research payload lockers aboard the new spaceships built by Redwire Space and announced in September a dedicated charter research flight scheduled for 2027 featuring an all-Purdue University crew.



« Virgin Galactic team members work on the wing assembly for a Delta-class spacecraft in Mesa, Ariz. (photo credit: Virgin Galactic).

We Build Spaceships series (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLfS-gFODJJJa44Y75-6Gy-tz9gyQO8eQ)

« The Mesa, Ariz., manufacturing facility where Virgin Galactic's Delta-class spaceships are being constructed was completed in the summer of 2024 (photo credit: Virgin Galactic).

Galactic 10 series (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLfS-gFODJJJbClY-hlkCNZqPaR972Ee-7WU)

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS

Kicking off another high-energy performance season, the United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron—better known as the Thunderbirds—returned to Spaceport America in January 2025 for an intensive training period. For nearly three weeks, the team honed their precision flying skills in preparation for a packed schedule of airshows and demonstrations across the country.

The Thunderbirds team, made up of 12 officers and more than 130 enlisted personnel representing 31 Air Force specialties, logged dozens of hours of flight training in the skies above southern New Mexico. Although the team's demonstrations feature six F-16 Fighting Falcons, a total of nine aircraft were stationed at Spaceport America during the training period to support operations. The 2025 team also welcomed three new pilots, who joined their fellow crew members in perfecting the squadron's signature aerial maneuvers.

Spaceport America has played a key role in Thunderbird training since 2021, when the squadron first trained outside its home base at Nellis Air Force Base. The partnership continues to thrive thanks to the restricted airspace provided through collaboration with the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range. This unique environment allows the Thunderbirds to simulate the demanding conditions and time constraints they'll face throughout their performance season.

After wrapping up their training at Spaceport America on Friday, January 24, the Thunderbirds transitioned to Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California for the next phase of preparation. From there, they headed to Daytona, Florida, where they officially launched their 2025 season with a flyover at the Daytona 500 on Sunday, February 16—marking their 15th consecutive appearance at the iconic event.

« photo credit: USAF Thunderbirds

2025 Thunderbirds highlights (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UO0lcTbbpk&pp=2AYP)

« photo credit: USAF Thunderbirds

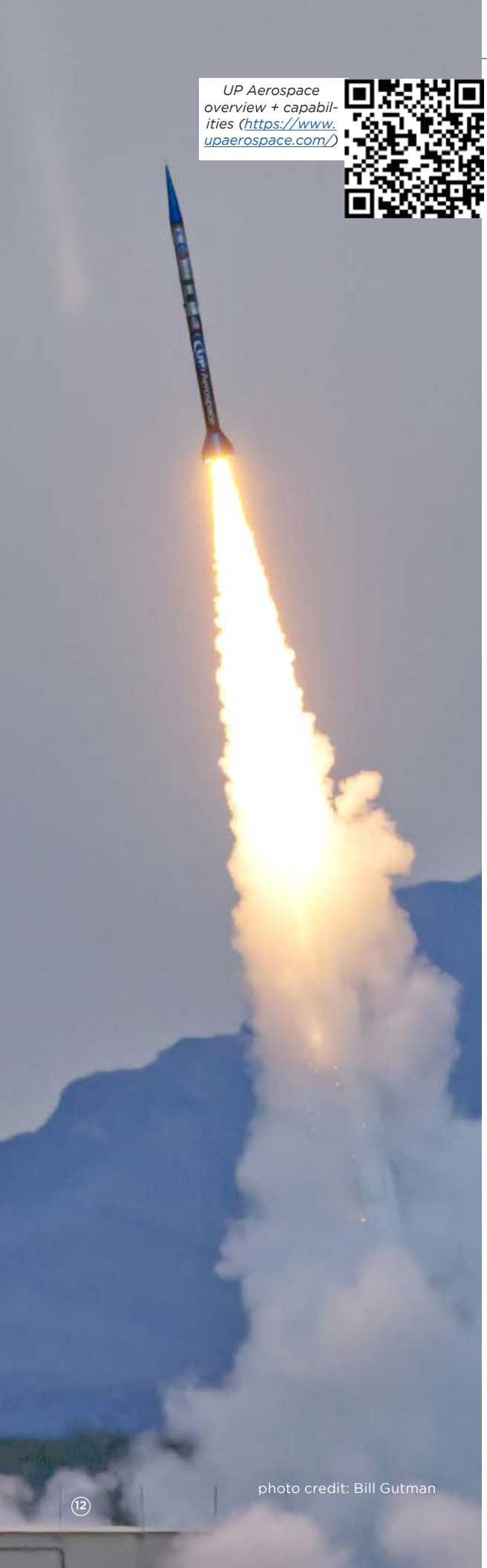


photo credit: Bill Gutman

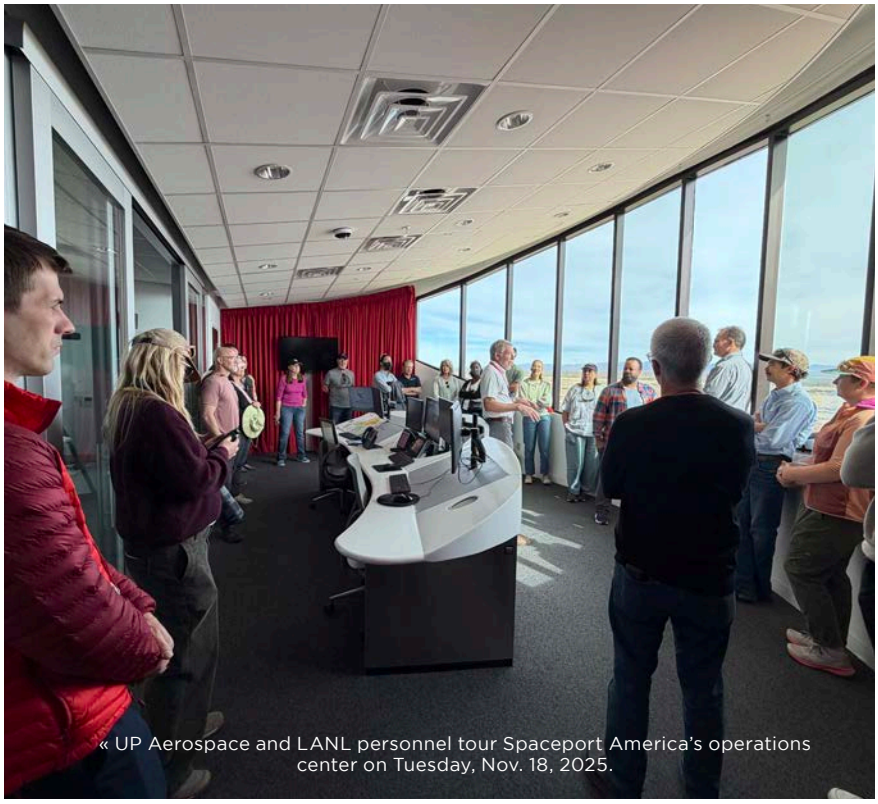
UP Aerospace overview + capabilities (https://www.upaerospace.com/)

On Wednesday, November 19, 2025, UP Aerospace launched a suborbital research mission in collaboration with Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) at Spaceport America . The launch, which took place at 7:00 a.m. local time, served as a concept test flight for LANL's latest technology. The early-morning launch featured a new vehicle equipped with a deployable heat shield, developed through a partnership between LANL, Redwire Space, and NASA Ames Research Center. NASA Ames contributed its expertise in simulations and thermal protection systems, helping to lay the scientific foundation for the mission.

The vehicle's aeroshell—a heat-shield structure designed to protect internal systems from intense re-entry heating—was released from the rocket's nose fairing during ascent. Once the vehicle reached apogee, the heat shield deployed and the payload began its descent back to Earth. The shield also helped slow the vehicle's descent, which can reach speeds exceeding 2,000 miles per hour.

The 11-minute flight was witnessed by more than 200 spectators and marked the sixth test in a series of LANL launches conducted in New Mexico since 2021. These flight tests are critical for evaluating how new technologies perform under extreme conditions, including high vacuum, intense heat, and rapid acceleration.

UP Aerospace has a long-standing history with Spaceport America since becoming the first company to launch a suborbital mission there in 2006. The company has maintained a consistent launch schedule, conducting at least one mission per year since 2023 totaling 22 missions from Spaceport America.



« UP Aerospace and LANL personnel tour Spaceport America's operations center on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025.

Castelion

In February 2025, Castelion—a defense manufacturing startup based in El Segundo, California—chose Spaceport America as the site for an unarmed flight test of Blackbeard, the company's first weapon system. This test marked Castelion's second flight in just 30 days and was part of a broader campaign that included 20 developmental test flights over an 18-month period.

The successful test at Spaceport America laid the groundwork for Castelion's deeper commitment to New Mexico. In November, the company announced plans to establish Project Ranger, a 1,000-acre solid rocket motor manufacturing campus in Sandoval County. The facility will focus on next-generation hypersonic systems and is expected to create 300 high-quality jobs while generating more than $650 million in economic output over the next decade.

Castelion intends to invest over $100 million in the development of Project Ranger, with additional capital investments anticipated as the initiative progresses. The campus will be equipped to produce solid rocket motors, conduct static tests, and assemble components into finished rounds—strengthening New Mexico's growing reputation as a hub for defense innovation. The decision to locate Project Ranger in New Mexico was driven by strong local and regional collaboration, including efforts from Sandoval County, the City of Rio Rancho, the Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance (AREA), the Sandoval Economic Alliance (SEA), and numerous state officials.

"Spaceport America represents a strategic asset for New Mexico's advanced aerospace and defense economy. Its purpose-built infrastructure and national profile help position the state competitively for companies that require speed, security, and technical certainty. In Castelion's case, the Spaceport helped move the conversation from possibility to execution by reducing barriers to entry and accelerating the company's testing and speed-to-market capability. This is exactly the kind of asset that allows New Mexico to win and retain next-generation defense technology and aerospace investments."

CHAD MATHESON
Interim President & CEO
Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance

photo credit: Castelion Corp.

photo credit: Castelion Corp.

Castelion overview + capabilities (https://www.castelion.com/)

photo credit: Hermeus

Hermeus overview + capabilities (https://www.hermeus.com/)

HERMEUS

Hermeus is a high-speed aircraft manufacturer focused on the rapid design, build, and test of high-Mach and hypersonic aircraft for the national interest. Utilizing an integrated, hardware-rich, iterative development approach to aircraft design and build, Hermeus aims to deliver advanced air power at a pace not seen in the U.S. since the 1950s.

Hermeus completed the first successful flight of its Quarterhorse Mk 1 technology demonstrator in May 2025 at Edwards Air Force base, making a crucial step toward reusable hypersonic aircraft by validating the design and manufacture of the aircraft. Now, the company is preparing for the first flight of its Quarterhorse Mk 2, a supersonic aircraft that is slated to fly from Spaceport America in 2026. Roughly the size of an F-16 and powered by a Pratt & Whitney F100 engine, the Quarterhorse Mk 2 will deepen the understanding of high-speed flight and advance technologies critical for national defense.

In 2025, Hermeus has been expanding its operations at Spaceport America, building out mission support infrastructure and preparing ground facilities ahead of next year's ground and flight test campaign. Working closely with Spaceport teams, Hermeus' Deployed & Test Operations team has been onsite laying the foundational infrastructure, which includes the rapid build of a brand-new hangar that will house Mk 2. This critical work will enable the Hermeus team to execute their test plan quickly and seamlessly once the aircraft is on site in 2026.

Spaceport America offers the customization needed for Hermeus' rapid, iterative build and test process, ensuring that once the plane arrives, the focus can immediately shift to integration and execution without waiting on facilities or infrastructure to catch up.

"Here, we get to build what we need — our own hangar, our own setup, our own taxiway," said Dave Pokorski, "8-Ball," Senior Manager, Deployed & Test Operations. "It's a lot more customized, and day-to-day operations are going to run much smoother than our last time around."

Hermeus began construction of its foundational infrastructure and hangar at Spaceport America in December of 2025 (photo credit: Hermeus)

PRECISION AI

With world headquarters in Regina, Saskatchewan (Canada) and a United States base of operations in San Francisco, Calif., Precision AI is designing the machines of tomorrow that will feed the world.

Spaceport America has served as a development and testing ground for one such of these machines - the *Stratus AirSprayer™.*

Precision AI has been testing the Gen 1 prototype of its most recent breakthrough in spray technology at Spaceport America since 2024.

More than a drone, the Stratus AirSprayer™ breaks out of traditional categorization as a new product that demands a name as innovative as its capabilities. Stratus AirSprayers™ are the freshest step forward in crop protection.

The solution for low labor, sustainable, cost-efficient chemical application on the farm is hindered by small drones that require battery changes every 4-6 minutes. By leveraging the lift of a parachute, the payloads our AirSprayers can handle are beyond traditional UAV limitations.

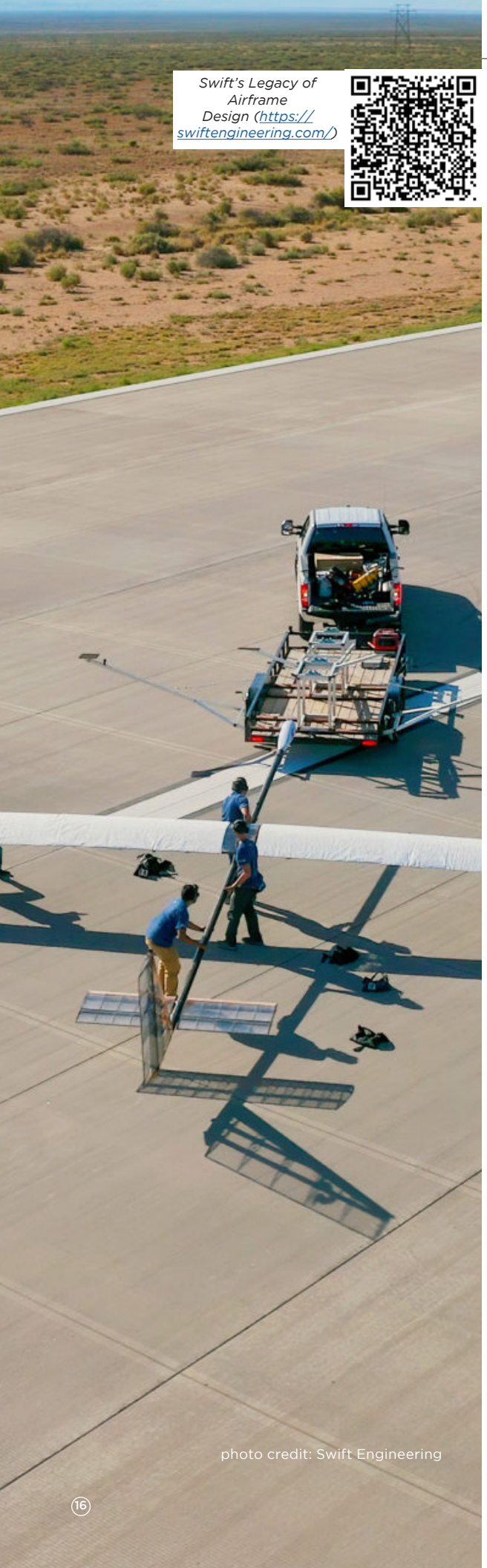
These advanced autonomous aerial sprayers have been designed to meet the demands of expansive farms that manage thousands of acres of essential crops. With the capacity to treat over 92 acres per hour per unit and transports easily, the Stratus AirSprayer™ is engineered to maximize field time, ensuring crops receive timely protection with unparalleled efficiency.

The Stratus AirSprayer™ significantly reduces spray drift, keeping chemicals precisely where they are needed and safeguarding the surrounding ecosystem. The AirSprayer's 60 or 100 gallon tank leads to less downtime and more acres covered between refills. And perhaps most compelling is the cost of operation. At less than $2.85 per acre, this sprayer operates at a fraction of the cost of traditional drone technology which ranges between $6-13 per acre.

photo credit: Precision AI

Precision AI UAV overview (https://www.precision.ai/)

photo credit: Precision AI



Swift's Legacy of Airframe Design (https://swiftengineering.com/)

photo credit: Swift Engineering

Swift Engineering

The summer of 2025 marked a major milestone for Swift Engineering as the company continued pushing the boundaries of unmanned flight with its Swift Ultra Long Endurance (SULE) aircraft. On Saturday, July 26, the SULE reached a record-breaking altitude of 67,000 feet during a 24-hour flight at Spaceport America—surpassing its previous high of 55,904 feet and setting a new benchmark for high-altitude endurance.

This groundbreaking flight demonstrated the expanding potential of unmanned systems for scientific research, environmental monitoring, and defense applications. Swift Engineering is currently engaged in a two-year partnership with NASA focused on developing cost-effective, long-endurance unmanned aircraft with enhanced data capture capabilities. The company recently received a Phase II award to support further design, fabrication, and flight testing of the SULE platform.

Swift's family of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) includes the rapidly deployable VTOL Swift Crane and the longer-range, gas-powered Swift Accipiter—both suited for military and law enforcement missions. The SULE platform extends these capabilities even further, offering a 72-foot wingspan and a 15-pound payload capacity. It also serves as a communications relay for other Swift platforms, providing broad situational awareness well beyond the reach of Crane and Accipiter.

Notably, Swift's SULE has set new altitude records from Spaceport America for three consecutive years, reinforcing the spaceport's role as a premier testing ground for aerospace innovation.

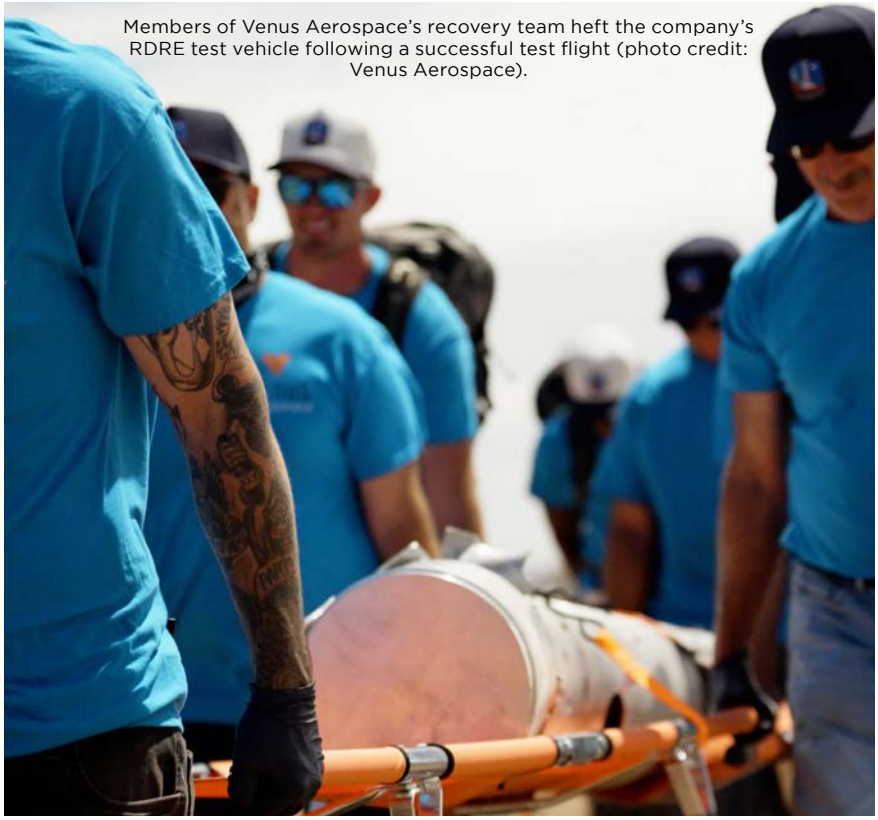
photo credit: Swift Engineering

VENUS AEROSPACE®

On Wednesday, May 14, 2025, Venus Aerospace—a Houston-based startup pioneering high-speed flight—conducted a landmark demonstration at Spaceport America's Vertical Launch Area. The test marked the first rotating detonation rocket engine (RDRE) flight in the United States, designed to validate the engine's performance and system integrity under real flight conditions.

RDRE technology, first theorized in the 1980s, offers significant advantages in efficiency and compactness, making it ideal for cutting-edge aerospace applications. Venus's RDRE is engineered to be both scalable and cost-effective, with potential uses in defense and commercial systems—including future aircraft capable of transporting passengers from Los Angeles to Tokyo in under two hours. The RDRE is designed to work in tandem with Venus's proprietary VDR2 air-breathing detonation ramjet. This innovative pairing allows aircraft to take off from a conventional runway and accelerate to speeds beyond Mach 6, sustaining hypersonic cruise without relying on rocket boosters.

Venus Aerospace is now preparing for full-scale propulsion testing and vehicle integration as it moves closer to realizing its vision: the Stargazer M4, a reusable passenger aircraft capable of reaching Mach 4. With the global hypersonics market projected to exceed $12 billion by 2030, Venus Aerospace's work at Spaceport America positions New Mexico at the forefront of this rapidly advancing sector.



Members of Venus Aerospace's recovery team heft the company's RDRE test vehicle following a successful test flight (photo credit: Venus Aerospace).

« *Venus Aerospace overview + capabilities (https://www.venusaero.com/)*

photo credit: Venus Aerospace

A CINEMATIC DESTINATION

Spaceport America's striking architecture and breathtaking desert landscapes continue to attract filmmakers and television producers from around the country. In 2025 alone, three major productions featuring the spaceport were released on both the big screen and television, showcasing the site's unique visual appeal and growing reputation as a premier filming location.

The Gateway to Space building (above, below), rented by Virgin Galactic to serve as its operational facility, served as the home of Isaiah White in a number of exterior shots for the 2025 feature film *HIM*. The film is currently available on physical media as well as a number of streaming services (photo credits: Universal Pictures, Monkeypaw Productions).

The story of the United States Air Force Thunderbirds' 2023 training, much of which occurred at Spaceport America, was told to Netflix audiences in 2025's *Air Force Elite: Thunderbirds*. Multiple facility shots, including the one above of Lt. Col. Justin "Flash" Elliott addressing the team in front of the Gateway to Space building, were included in the 91-minute film (photo credit: Netflix).

AMC's *Ride with Norman Reedus* trekked throughout the state of New Mexico during a season seven episode which originally aired in late August of 2025. In the episode, Reedus and co-star Zahn McClarnon made a stop at Spaceport America where they interacted with personnel from the Spaceport and its anchor tenant, Virgin Galactic (photo credits L-R: AMC, Spaceport America, AMC, AMC).

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

As part of its statutory mission, Spaceport America remained deeply committed to STEM education and outreach throughout 2025, engaging thousands of students across New Mexico and beyond. The spaceport's unique role in the aerospace and space industries was highlighted through numerous site visits by youth organizations and school groups, reinforcing its significance at the state level and beyond.

Over the course of the year, Spaceport America hosted nearly 60 student groups, including K–12 classes as well as university programs. These visits impacted approximately 4,700 students and teachers, offering hands-on learning experiences and exposure to real-world applications of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

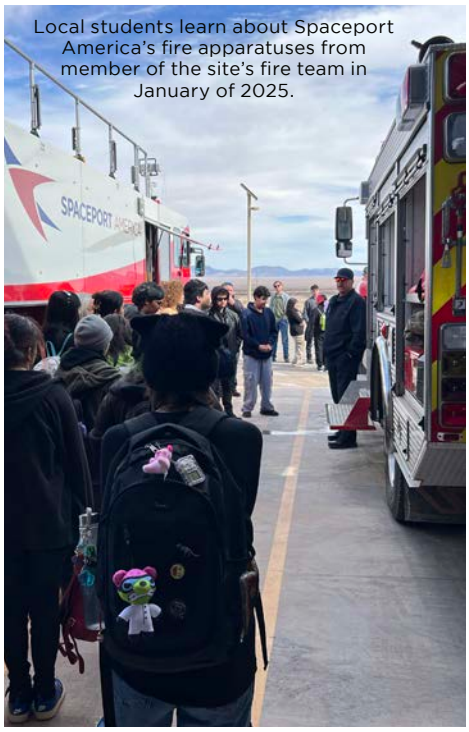
Building on this momentum, Spaceport America launched a new initiative in late 2024 to support upper-level university students through engineering capstone projects. These real-world challenges were designed to help students meet graduation requirements while contributing to the spaceport's ongoing development. In spring 2025, 13 students from New Mexico State University (NMSU) and the New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology (New Mexico Tech) successfully completed their capstone projects under the guidance of their academic advisors and Spaceport America aerospace engineer Dr. Joachim Lohn-Jaramillo. These collaborations exemplify the spaceport's dedication to cultivating the next generation of aerospace professionals.

Read the full story (https://www.spaceportamerica.com/capstone-initiatives/)

Spaceport America aerospace engineer Dr. Joachim Lohn-Jaramillo (far left) poses with NMSU students in front of their respective capstone project presentations in May of 2025.

Students from the Engineering Success Center at the University of New Mexico prep rockets for launch at Spaceport America in summer of 2025.

In conjunction with the New Mexico Museum of Space History, Spaceport America and Virgin Galactic hosted nearly 200 Rocketeer Academy students at the spaceport in the summer of 2025.



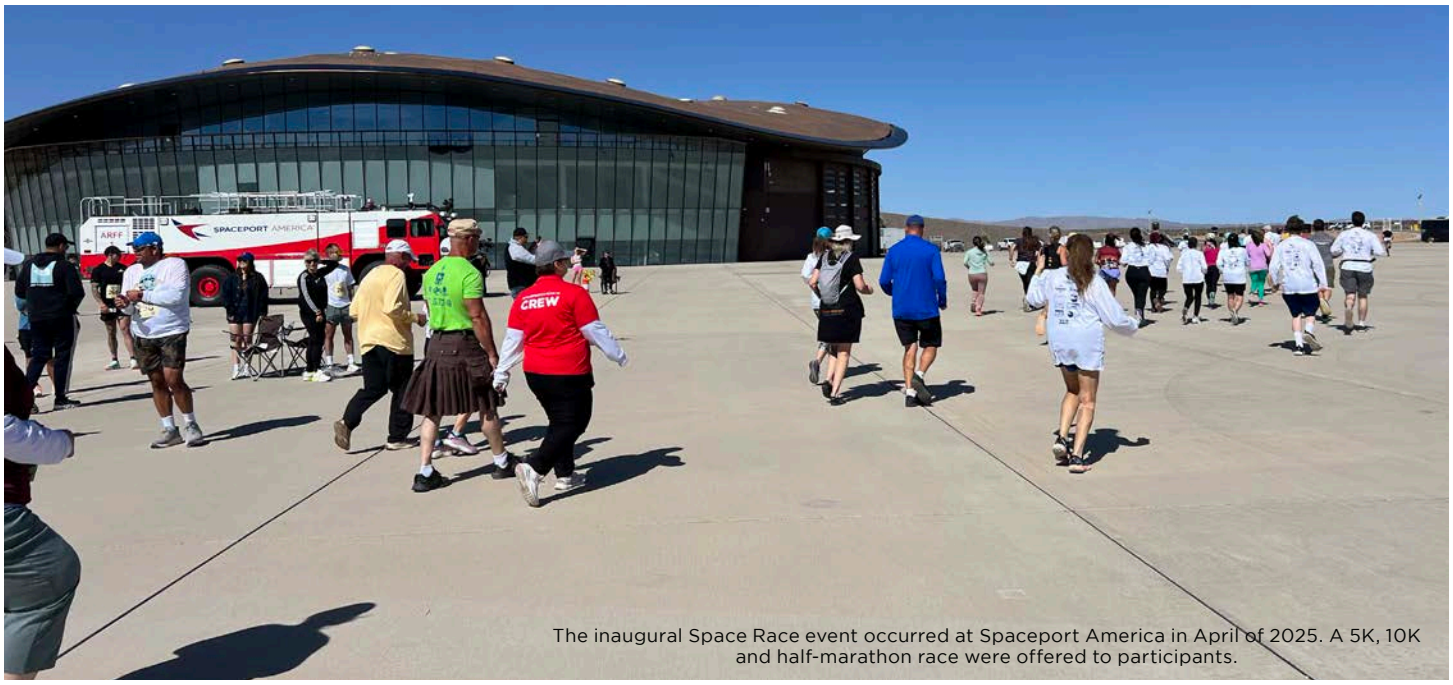
Local students learn about Spaceport America's fire apparatuses from member of the site's fire team in January of 2025.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

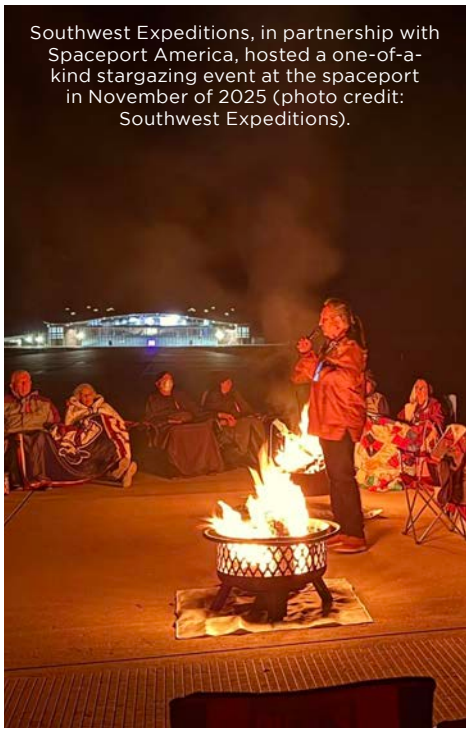
While Spaceport America continues to serve as a hub for space and aerospace operations, 2025 also highlighted its growing role as a dynamic venue for public events and community engagement. Throughout the year, the spaceport hosted a variety of experiences that showcased its versatility beyond aerospace, including the inaugural Space Race and the Enchanted Evening event in partnership with Southwest Expeditions.

These events not only brought visitors to the site but also strengthened ties with local businesses and organizations. Spaceport America team members, along with representatives from our protective services contractor Fiore, participated in numerous outreach activities across Doña Ana and Sierra Counties, reinforcing the spaceport's presence and accessibility within the region.

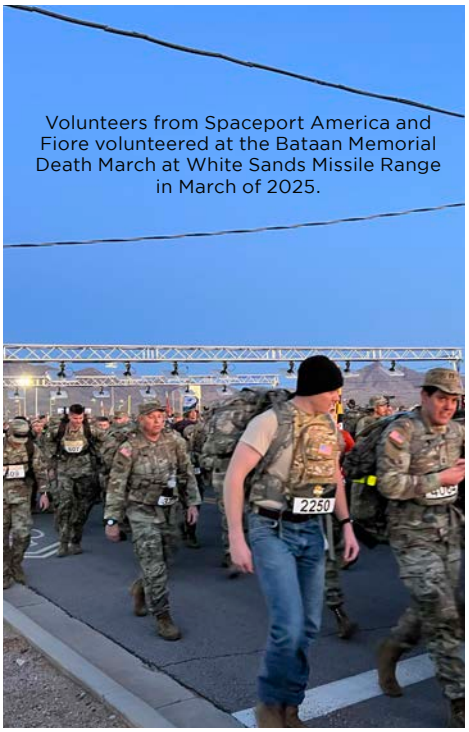
By engaging directly with the community, these events provided valuable opportunities for staff to share information about Spaceport America's mission, its tenants, and the innovative work being done on-site. The increased visibility and interaction continue to build public awareness and support for the spaceport's long-term vision.



The inaugural Space Race event occurred at Spaceport America in April of 2025. A 5K, 10K and half-marathon race were offered to participants.



Southwest Expeditions, in partnership with Spaceport America, hosted a one-of-a-kind stargazing event at the spaceport in November of 2025 (photo credit: Southwest Expeditions).



Volunteers from Spaceport America and Fiore volunteered at the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range in March of 2025.

Spaceport America was one of many organizations from Las Cruces, N.M., who volunteered at the Las Cruces Public Schools Plan My Future event in February of 2025.

2025 OPEN HOUSE

SPACEPORTAMERICA®

On Sunday, September 21, 2025, space enthusiasts from across New Mexico and beyond gathered at Spaceport America for its annual open house event. The celebration drew nearly 2,300 visitors to Sierra County, marking a 16% increase in attendance from the previous year. Guests had the opportunity to explore the site's operations and meet with tenants and customers including Virgin Galactic, Sirius Technologies, Inc., UP Aerospace, and ES Aero. More than 50 vendors and exhibitors were also on hand, offering interactive displays, demonstrations, and activities that kept attendees engaged throughout the day.

For the second consecutive year, the open house kicked off the Las Cruces Space Festival, now in its seventh year. The festival celebrates New Mexico's rich space history and promotes public education and awareness of space-related science, technology, and exploration.

A lineup of distinguished guest speakers added depth to the event, sharing insights from their careers in aerospace and space science. Among them were Ginger Kerrick, Chief Strategy Officer at Barrios Technologies and former NASA flight operations director; Virgin Galactic pilot Jameel Janjua; NASA astronaut and U.S. Navy Captain Wendy Lawrence; and Michelle Lucas, Founder and CEO of Higher Orbits. They were joined on stage by Spaceport America Executive Director Scott McLaughlin, Business Operations Manager Rani Bush, and New Mexico Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales.

Static aircraft displays—including an MQ-9 Reaper and ES Aero's lithium-battery powered airplane—provided popular photo opportunities and a closer look at cutting-edge aerospace technology. As the day wound down, one thing was clear: Spaceport America's open house had become more than just an event. It was a chance for the public to step closer to the stars.

« *2025 Open House recap (video) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhclXXROAO8)*

SELECTED REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS

A group of logistics officers from Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, N.M., made the journey to Spaceport America in January of 2025. There, they took part in a comprehensive site visit while hearing from Spaceport America and Virgin Galactic perosnnel about the support of various flight operations. Visits such as this help to strengthen the partnership between local military bases and the spaceport.

Personnel from Spaceport America post with New Mexico Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales at the state's 2025 Aerospace & Aviation Day in March of 2025. Spaceport America along with the New Mexico Department of Transportation and NewSpace Nexus shouldered hosting duties for the annual day which is one of many throughout the country put on by the Aerospace States Association.

Members of the Greater Gallup Economic Development Coalition (GGEDC) visited Spaceport America on behalf of New Mexico State Senator Patty Lundstrom in April of 2025. The GGEDC team met with Spaceport America peronnel where they discussed methods of strengthening the economic development relationships throughout the state.

Division directors from the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs took part in a site visit of Spaceport America in April of 2025. The group of SCA leaders learned about the site and its tenants. Visits from State of New Mexico agencies allow enhanced communication of the Spaceport's mission throughout the state.

Participants of the Southwest Region Economic Development Association (SWREDA) took in a presentation from Spaceport America personnel as part of a site visit in May of 2025. SWREDA, a regional arm of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), held its annual conference in Las Cruces, N.M., with attendees coming in from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The Albuquerque Regional Economic Alliance (AREA) and Spaceport America signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Friday, June 13, 2025, formalizing a new collaboration between the two organizations. The partnership will open up exciting opportunities to propel New Mexico's position as a leader in space industry innovation and expansion.

Summer interns from the Office of the Governor of New Mexico were on site at Spaceport America for a site visit in July of 2025. The interns ranged from high school to university students, and received the chance to learn about the Spaceport as well as Virgin Galactic's spaceflight operations.

Team members from the Texas Space Coalition and Spaceport America began working together to ignite opportunities for the space industrues in both state in July of 2025. Later in the year, Spaceport America peronnel appeared as panelists for the TSC's Space Tech El Paso conference.

In celebration of 20 years of partnership, Spaceport America and the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance (MVEDA) held an MOU signing ceremony at the Spaceport America offices in Las Cruces in September of 2025. Along with the MOU signing, the group also revisted the last 20 years of partnership alongside dozens of attendees.

Representative from branches of the United States Armed Forces, local government, and regional partners joined together at Spaceport America in late September of 2026 to take part in a fusion energy roundtable at Spaceport America. The roundtable event was put together by Fuse, a California-based fusion defense company that provides radiation testing services for national serucity customers as a path to commercial fusion power.

The latest cohort of attendees from ARES Learning took part in a lengthy site visit of Spaceport America in November of 2025. Over the past two-and-a-half years, multiple cohorts of middle school, high school, and university educators from around the nation have made the trip to New Mexico. One of the members of the latest cohort was Inspiration4 astronaut Chris Sembroski who traveled to space in 2021 on a SpaceX Falcon 9 vehicle.

28,518

Total number of Spaceport America visitors for business development, STEM, and aerospace-related events in 2025

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Spaceport America's Business Development team, comprised of four dedicated professionals, leads the charge in attracting new tenants and customers to the site. Their strategic outreach efforts—through trade shows, conferences, and panel discussions—are instrumental in expanding Spaceport America's visibility and influence across the region and the nation.

At Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., Spaceport America Director of Business Development Dr. Francisco Pallares (far left) joined other subject matter experts from around the nation to give a presentation on the future of space launch infrastructure.

Joining a group of panelists from around the nation, Spaceport America Executive Director Scott McLaughlin (second from right) was present at the National Space Society's International Space Developement Conference (ISDC).

Spaceport America Executive Director Scott McLaughlin (seated, far right) joined a trio of other panelists from the region at the Business of the Borderplex 2.0 event hosted by Albuquerque Business First. The August 2025 event showcased the opportunities throughout the state for a number of industries.

Team members from Fuse, one of the nation's foremost authorities on fusion energy, met with various state government and military officials at Spaceport America in September. The conference allowed all sides to discuss the potential of having New Mexico serve as a testbed for this form of energy.

Spaceport America's Dr. Francisco Pallares (far left) joined Nora Meyers Sackett, Mason Martinez, and David Kistin on a panel in November of 2025 at the Q Station in Albuquerque. The representatives from Spaceport America, the New Mexico Economic Development Department, AeroVironment and Sandia National Laboratories shared insights on how advanced energy and technology are powering New Mexico's future.

(L-R) Dr. Shery Welch, Mike Pryor, Spaceport America's Dr. Francisco Pallares and Casey Anglada DeRaad pose for a photo following the NewSpace Nexus Showcase Summit in December of 2025. The quartet appeared on a panel to highlight the resources available in our region to propel the space industry forward.

$491m
$491 million in total Value Added production from 2019-2024

$107m
$107 million in Total Taxes from 2019-2024

$88m
$88 million Value Added to **Doña Ana County** in 2024

$57m
$57 million in Labor Income to **Doña Ana County** in 2024

$12m
$12 million Value Added to **Sierra County** in 2024

256
256 Direct Jobs in **Doña Ana County** in 2024

107
107 Total Jobs in **Sierra County** in 2024

$8m
$8 million in Labor Income to **Sierra County** in 2024

590
590 Total Jobs in **Doña Ana County** in 2024

All data points taken from the New Mexico State University Center for Border Economic Development (C-BED) Economic Impact of Spaceport America, 2019-2024 document (featured in full on page eight).

56
56 Direct Jobs in **Sierra County** in 2024

CAPITAL PROJECTS

SPACEPORT TECHNOLOGY AND RECEPTION CENTER (STARC)

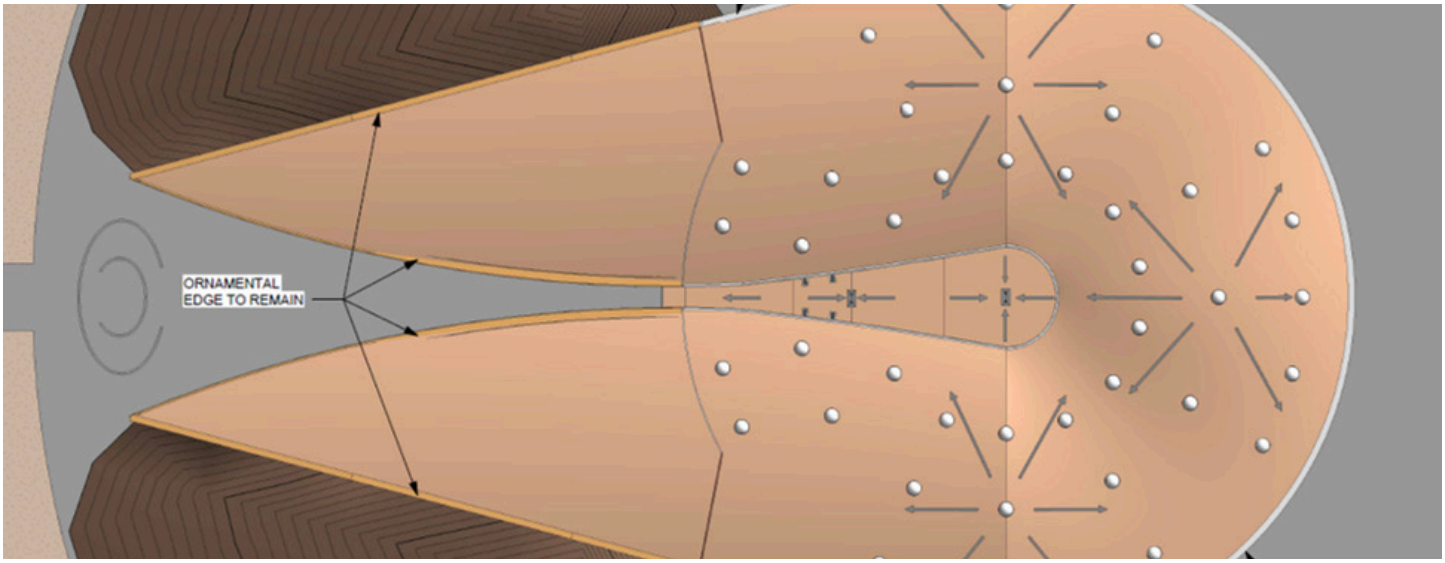
- Funded at $16 million
- Provides needed operations, IT, security, and visitor areas
- Will contain areas for existing and future tenants, and payload processing area
- Project currently underway with Summit Construction
- Estimated close-out set for June of 2027
- Photo is artist's rendering

FABRIC HANGAR/PAYLOAD FACILITY AND TAXIWAY

- Total project cost of $16.8 million with $8 million committed via RSD funds
- Provides indoor vehicle storage, workspaces, and payload areas for multiple customers and tenants
- Located near south end of runway at Horizontal Launch Area
- Project includes modular office space and restroom facilities
- Construction currently underway, with substantial completion anticipated by Q4 2026

CAPITAL PROJECTS

GATEWAY TO SPACE BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT



- Project Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) set at $3.2 million
- Provides new roof for GTS Building
- Design phase completed, anticipated construction start in February 2026
- Estimated close-out set for Q3 2026
- Photo is artist's rendering

HORIZONTAL LAUNCH AREA NORTH ROADWAY & UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Project Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) set at $2.9 million via RSD funds
- Provides utility extensions to northernmost area of Horizontal Launch Area (HLA) runway
- Allows for easier customer access to utilities, allowing for new organizations to reduce up front costs
- Estimated close-out set for FY2026

SPACEPORTAMERICA®

MAIN/CORPORATE OFFICE
4605 Research Park Circle, Ste A
Las Cruces, N.M. 88001
575.267.8500

PHYSICAL SITE*
Co Road A021
Truth or Consequences, N.M. 87901
575.267.8500

THE GATEWAY TO SPACE®

*visiting and touring Spaceport America requires prior authorization | * not to be used as a mailing address

photo credit: United States Air Force Thunderbirds