Creating Communities of Innovation™

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PARKS

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A Research Park Out of this World

How Aerospace and Space Technologies are
Building Communities of Innovation on the Ground
Explore this and more at AURP International Conference (Oct 18-21)

Tucson, Arizona, and Melbourne, Florida
January 28, 2021

On the 35th anniversary of its founding, the Association of University Research Parks (AURP) announces its first orbiting community of innovation member – the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS); manager of the International Space Station (ISS) U.S. National Laboratory under a cooperative agreement with NASA. AURP remains as the leading international nonprofit association representing research parks and innovation districts in 42 states and 12 countries around the globe and now, in space.

Research parks and innovation districts have evolved from their real estate focus in 1986 to today's mixed-use innovation and applied research clusters sponsored by universities, federal labs, hospital systems, corporations, and cities. Technologies from bio health to clean energy to quantum computing are explored at thousands of companies in AURP-member research parks and innovation districts. Now with the addition of CASIS, space-based research and technologies can be added to the mix to further scientific knowledge and advance novel discoveries not possible on Earth. Additionally, the CASIS recent research announcement is focused on **Technology Advancement and Applied Research** for companies and organizations to propose investigative concepts that may be sent to the orbiting laboratory sponsored by the ISS National Lab.

'AURP is thrilled with the addition of CASIS to our member community,' noted Brian Darmody, AURP CEO. 'Sandia Science & Technology Park in New Mexico along with Sandia National Lab is a long time AURP member and we welcome the manager of our newest national lab to our mix.'

"As manager of the ISS National Lab, CASIS is constantly seeking new avenues to educate researchers on how the unique space-based environment of our orbiting laboratory can enable discoveries not possible on Earth," said Christine Kretz, CASIS Vice President of Programs and Partnerships. "Through this collaboration with AURP, we look forward to reaching new audiences who might find value in taking their research and technology development to new heights."

With the great advances in aerospace, such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and space technologies, AURP will host a special pre-conference session at its 2021 International Conference, October 18-21. This special session, *How Advances in Aerospace and Space Technologies Are Building Communities of Innovation on the Ground,* is scheduled on October 19th in Salt Lake City and is hosted by the University of Utah Research Park.

Presentations by ISS National Lab spokespeople, FAA, NASA, UAV clusters, federal aerospace contractors, civilian and federal space ports, other government agencies, universities and private sector firms are expected at the conference. **Learn more about the AURP International Conference**.

For groups interested in presenting or sponsoring this pre-conference session, contact **Brian Darmody**.

About AURP: AURP, a not-for-profit international organization with offices in the Washington, DC area at the University of Maryland Discovery District and headquarters in Tucson, AZ at the University of Arizona Tech Park, focuses on creating communities of innovation and education for research parks both operating and planned, plus innovation districts, incubators, accelerators, and the businesses that support this research-based network. AURP and its global membership promote research, institute-industry relations, and innovation districts to foster innovation and to facilitate the transfer of technology from such institutions to the private sector. Learn more: **www.aurp.net**

About the International Space Station (ISS) U.S. National Laboratory: The ISS is a one-of-a-kind laboratory that enables research and technology development not possible on Earth. As a public service enterprise, the ISS National Lab allows researchers to leverage this multiuser facility to improve life on Earth, mature space-based business models, advance science literacy in the future workforce, and expand a sustainable and scalable market in low Earth orbit. Through this orbiting national laboratory, research resources on the ISS are available to support non-NASA science, technology and education initiatives from U.S. government agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector. The Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS) manages the ISS National Lab, under cooperative agreement with NASA, facilitating access to its permanent microgravity research environment, a powerful vantage point in low Earth orbit, and the extreme and varied conditions of space. To learn more about the ISS National Lab, visit **www.issnationallab.org**

Appendix A: The Space Foundation estimates the global space economy at nearly $415 billion in 2018 and the UAV market is estimated to reach $45 billion by 2025. Many private and federal spaceports are planned across the US. (See graphic below).

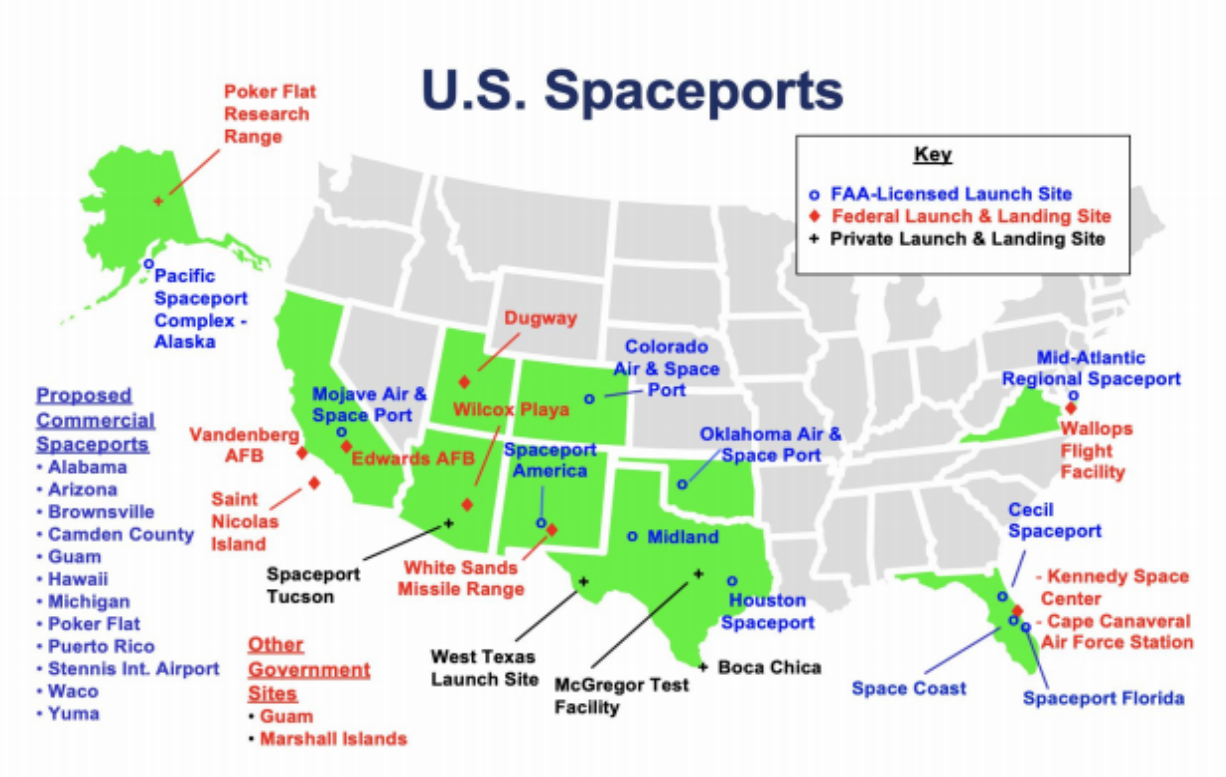

Figure 3 – Current and Proposed U.S. Spaceports