



For Immediate Release

Space Florida Honors 5th Anniversary of Final Shuttle Flight

EXPLORATION PARK, FL (July 8, 2016) – The Space Florida honors the 5th anniversary of the last Shuttle flight and the enduring legacy of the aerospace workforce, both NASA and contractor, who anchored this nation’s leadership in space for more than 30 years. This milestone presents an opportunity to reflect upon the rich cultural heritage of Florida in space exploration, but also to celebrate a new more robust future of scientific and commercial discovery.

In these last five years Florida and the Space Coast region has rallied from a painful economic and emotional injury when the Shuttle was retired and thousands of jobs disappeared. It was a program which symbolized this community to both the world, and to itself. Its ending brought loss and doubt.

Following the cancelation of the Apollo program in the 1970’s it was the second time dependence upon a government program had proven unsustainable and this community had again paid the price.

But today, the jobs have returned and are now less reliant upon the Federal government. The foundation of the future space marketplace is finding its footing here in Florida. Our challenge is clear but our collective commitment as a state remains unwavering. The results of that commitment are paying off and the world is noticing.

Space Florida offers its congratulations to all who have endured and persevered to rebuild a stronger future for the next generation of the space workforce in Florida.

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About Space Florida: Space Florida was created to strengthen Florida’s position as a global leader in aerospace research, investment, exploration and commerce. As Florida’s spaceport authority and aerospace development organization, we are committed to attracting and expanding the next generation of space industry businesses. With its highly trained workforce, proven infrastructure and unparalleled record of achievement, Florida is the ideal location for aerospace businesses to thrive – and Space Florida is the perfect partner to help them succeed. www.spaceflorida.gov