

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation (COE CST) is proud to sponsor the 2013 Next-Generation Suborbital Researchers Conference. Created in August 2010 as part of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Centers of Excellence Program, the COE CST comprises nine core universities conducting research in four focus area supporting the emerging commercial space industry.

"The recent milestones in commercial space launch activity provide an ideal and timely opportunity for the Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation to address critical challenges of direct relevance to the industry", said Dr. Tristan Fiedler, Associate Vice President for Research at Florida Institute of Technology, and Academic Liaison to the COE CST Industry Advisory Board. "Working with our affiliates and industry colleagues, the Center's world class investigators work closely with Ken Davidian, Director of Research at the FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation, and Program Manager for the COE CST."

The nine core universities are: Florida Institute of Technology, Florida State University, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, New Mexico State University, Stanford University, University of Central Florida, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Florida and University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. The four major research areas are: Space Traffic Management & Operations; Space Transportation Operations, Technologies & Payloads; Human Spaceflight; and Space Transportation Industry Viability.

The following statistics and milestones represent the second year of COE CST operation:

- 43 research tasks conducted [9 new, 24 ongoing, 10 completed]
- 28 principal investigators, 37 students
- 38 reports involving 17 external collaborators and 28 industry partners

Information on the COE CST, including the Industry Advisory Board and Affiliate / Associate Member Program is available from Dr. Tristan J. Fiedler [NSRC Booth 106] at fiedler@fit.edu or 321-674-7723.

www.coe-cst.org

BACKGROUND ON THE FAA CENTER OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

The FAA Center of Excellence program was established by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, Public Law 101-508, Title IX, Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act. COEs are intended to be a 10-year relationship between academia, industry, and government that creates a world-class consortium to address current and future challenges for critical topics such as commercial space transportation. The main goals of every COE include research, training, education and outreach. A unique attribute of the COE program is the one-to-one matching requirement for every federal dollar granted to a COE university. The matching requirement can be satisfied through direct or in-kind contributions from a non-federal funding source, including industry, universities, or state and local government organizations.