

State Legislator Tours Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship  
Companies on Day after Job Growth Grant Award Announcement

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**For Immediate Release**

**Date: June 7, 2018**

Florida State Representative Robert Asencio visited the Cape Kennedy area last week on Thursday, May 31 to tour Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program companies Airbus OneWeb Satellites, Blue Origin, and RUAG Space and to meet with the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Committee. The Representative's visit fell coincidentally on the heels of Governor Scott's Florida Job Growth Fund Award announcement to Eastern Florida State College and Daytona State College the day before. The Space Coast Consortium worked diligently with the two colleges making significant contributions in letters of support, as well as time invested in input for a proposed Mechatronics Training Center to be required by the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship companies.

Representative Asencio, who is a strong advocate for expanding apprenticeship programs in the State, saw the advanced manufacturing technologies and skillsets required by the Consortium companies first-hand and learned more about the Consortium plans to grow their own talent pipeline locally through apprenticeships. "While we see and hear in the media all about the amazing capabilities these aerospace and tech companies have, it is a whole other experience to witness it up close and personal. These truly are the jobs of the future and we as a state must do all we can to prepare the workforce. That is why apprenticeships are so critical, and why I've fought so hard in the legislature to get them funded, not only in the Space Coast but also across the state of Florida. Seeing the facilities and meeting with the leaders has only reinforced my stance for apprenticeships," commented Representative

After the morning tour, Representative Asencio attended the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Committee meeting later that afternoon hosted at the RUAG Space manufacturing facility, where the Representative met and addressed the consortium committee members.

The Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program is currently registering the program with the Florida Department of Education and has selected five world-class advanced manufacturing occupational apprenticeship standards. These occupations are Advanced CNC Machine Operator, Mechatronics Technician, Industrial Mechanic, Electronic Technician for Aviation Systems, and Mechanic for Plastic/Rubber Processing specializing in Fiber Composites. To date, the consortium has expressed a need for a total of 20 apprentices, though this number is going to expand before the scheduled January 2019 start date.

“The Consortium has selected apprenticeship occupations that are world-class benchmark standards in advanced manufacturing that comply with the most rigid requirements in automated technologies today such as mechatronics, robotics and Industry 4.0. These are the exact occupations we need to keep our workforce globally competitive as well as to ensure a steady talent pipeline for our increasing manufacturing demands”, says Kai Schmidt, Airbus OneWeb Satellite’s HR Director and Chairman for the Consortium.

“We are very committed to apprenticeship programs, as they provide opportunities to talented people, and at the same time strengthen our workforce in the long term. We have been working very closely with EFSC and DSC and are very happy to hear the good news about the Grant award. We look forward to collaborating with both colleges in implementing our apprenticeship program,” Says Franck Mouriaux, the Chief Engineer Spacecraft for RUAG Space. The company is one of the leading suppliers of products for satellites and launchers. In Titusville, Florida, it has a facility that manufactures satellite structures.

The Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Committee will operate as an autonomous sub-committee of SpaceTEC, which will provide the general administration and fiscal transparency required of the program through its 501c3 status. "SPI is honored to join with the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program to assist in creation of a continuous pipeline of skilled technicians capable of supporting a new generation of aerospace advanced manufacturing and launch operations emerging in Central FL," says Steve Kane, Executive Director.

“The Consortium has been working tirelessly for two years to engage all local,

stakeholders aligned and the collaborations taking place to make this apprenticeship program a reality.”



AOS: Airbus OneWeb Satellites will host approximately 100 manufacturing technicians to perform state of the art 4.0 Industry satellites serial production with at least 2 satellites produced a day. Actual business opportunities will project a much higher workforce need in the coming years. With this apprenticeship program, we and our industry partners are customizing the curriculum and training procedure according to our needs.

RUAG Space is a leading supplier to the space industry, with engineering and manufacturing capabilities in both the U.S. and Europe. With close to 1,400 staff, it provides products for satellites and launch vehicles – playing a key role both in the commercial and institutional space market. Its portfolio comprises electronics for satellites and launchers, mechanical and thermal products for satellites, as well as launcher structures and separation systems. RUAG Space USA currently has sites in Huntsville, AL (headquarters), Decatur, AL, Titusville, FL, Denver, CO and Santa Clara, CA. RUAG Space is a division of the international technology Group RUAG. For more information, please visit [www.ruag.com](http://www.ruag.com). Twitter: [@RUAGSpace](https://twitter.com/RUAGSpace)

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assists in GAP (Germanic Apprenticeship Program) implementations within their local communities. For more information about Kamm Consulting, visit [www.bkammconsulting.com](http://www.bkammconsulting.com), or to learn more about the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program, call Bryan Kamm at 813-415-7514.



Kai Schmidt, Airbus OneWeb Satellite's HR Director, and Consortium Chairman explains the production hall layout to Representative Asencio at OneWeb's new manufacturing facility at the Kennedy Space Center's Exploration Park



Representative Asencio and Mark Sutton, RUAG Space Operations Manager, begin the tour of the RUAG Space Facility in Titusville, Florida





Representative Asencio visits Blue Origin's New Glenn Rocket Factory at Exploration Park Florida with the historic *New Shepard* booster in the lobby.

For more information about Kamm Consulting Group and GAP Partner Turnkey Solutions, please visit Kamm Consulting's website at [www.bkammconsulting.com](http://www.bkammconsulting.com), or contact Bryan Kamm at 813-415-7514.





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