



Press Release

Florida's Space Coast Welcomes Senator Tom A. Wright and German Consul General Siegel at the Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program's Apprentice Signing Ceremony at Airbus OneWeb Satellites

- Ten SCCAP apprentices – five from Blue Origin; three from Knight's Armament and two from Diamondback America will mix classroom-based learning at Eastern Florida State College and work-based on-the-job training at these local advanced technology manufacturing companies for a well-rounded talent development approach.
- SCCAP has registered three apprentice occupations with the State of Florida, including Mechatronics Technician, Advanced Machinist and Fiber Composite Technician
- All Three SCCAP apprenticeship occupations were developed using globally recognized European/German Dual Education occupational benchmark standards.
- SCCAP's apprenticeship programs will enhance the Space Coast workforce, further cementing it as the center for high-technology aerospace manufacturing.
- Through the SCCAP, participating companies will establish a solid pipeline of highly skilled workers.

EXPLORATION PARK, Florida, USA, May 10, 2021 – The Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program (SCCAP) – an industry-driven apprenticeship program led by a group of advanced manufacturing companies operating on the Space Coast– today formally welcomed ten SCCAP Advanced Machinist apprentices into its two-and-one-half-year apprenticeship program at the SCCAP Apprentice Signing Ceremony hosted at Airbus OneWeb Satellites, one of the program's founder members. The event was attended by government and business leaders, including Senator Tom A. Wright, German Consul General Andreas Siegel, Frank DiBello, President and CEO of Space Florida, and Dr. Randy Fletcher, Vice President Academic/Student Affairs & Chief Learning Officer of Eastern Florida State College.

Under the program, the SCCAP apprentices will attend classes at Eastern Florida State College two days a week and will work full-time on the manufacturing floors of participating companies. Mixing online learning from the National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) and academic/lab instruction at EFSC with OJT ("on-the-job training"), these apprentices will graduate with tangible, immediately marketable skills. The ten apprentices are Bobby Gordon, Maxwell Lenk, Patrick Thompson, Robert Koehler and John Ermer Jr. from Blue Origin, Rachel Conant, Zachary Teaster and Alex Stevens from Knight's Armament and Joel Dunham and Paul Scheuter from Diamondback America. These Advanced Machinist apprenticeship will start the apprenticeship program on May 17, 2021 when summer classes begin at Eastern Florida State College.





Upon graduation, SCCAP Advanced Machinist apprentices will earn a State of Florida apprenticeship certification, as well as NTMA and NIMS certifications and college credits that will apply to a two-year associate degree from Eastern Florida State College.

This is the second cohort of the SCCAP program following the first cohort of 7 Mechatronics Technician apprentices that started in August 2019. The first cohort is expected to graduate in January 2022. The initial cohort of seven Mechatronics Technicians also participated in a formal signing ceremony attended by Governor Ron DeSantis at OneWeb Satellites on July 29, 2019.

The consortium was started by Bryan Kamm, SCCAP Founder and Lead Advisor, and Co-founders OneWeb Satellites, RUAG Space, Knight's Armament and Rocket Crafters (now Vaya Space) in 2017 to address a shortage of highly skilled advanced manufacturing workforce skills on the Space Coast. Since 2017, six more companies have registered as members of SCCAP including Blue Origin, Compsys, Diamondback America, Matrix Composites, Precision Shapes and Structural Composites.

"It is a great honor and privilege to work with leading Space Coast manufacturers, educators and community leaders who recognize the importance of investing into a solid workforce talent pipeline to fuel our region and state economy with world-class, globally competitive Industry 4.0 manufacturing skills," said Bryan Kamm. *"To accomplish this, we modelled our three occupations based upon proven benchmark standards and practices already established in Europe that follow the German Dual Education apprenticeship standards in advanced manufacturing."*

"Space Florida is pleased to see the collaboration among industry, education and community to elevate the Space Coast's skilled workforce," said Frank DiBello, President and CEO of Space Florida. *"We were honored to host German Consul General Andreas Siegel for this apprenticeship signing ceremony and to learn from the German apprenticeship standards as we move into this new Space Coast program, which will further promote Florida's talent pipeline."*

"This project is a good example of fruitful German American cooperation: it will strengthen workforce development in key industrial areas which are confronted with growing international competition, said German Consul General Andreas Siegel. "Germany, as the third-largest foreign investor in Florida, is happy to share its training experience and make Florida even more attractive to foreign investors – thanks to its highly skilled workforce! As we say: WUNDERBAR TOGETHER!"

"As one of the founding companies, we were thrilled to host this signing ceremony to show our partnership with these highly technical and advanced Space Coast companies," said James Hinds, CEO of Airbus OneWeb Satellites. He added, *"This apprenticeship program of partnering STEM training in an industrial environment to fuel innovation and to build tomorrow's engineering workforce is an absolute win-win for everyone."*





"This is a superb program that reflects our college's focus on working closely with industry to create a pipeline of highly skilled workers. It's having an impact that will continue to grow as more apprentices take part," said Dr. Jim Richey, President of Eastern Florida State College.

John Blankenship, Director of Manufacturing at Blue Origin Florida expounds further upon the urgency to develop a local workforce talent pipeline through apprenticeships adding, *"the available talent for a skilled workforce in machining has been declining for years. We've gotten to the point that if companies don't come together to make sure we are sparking the interest of the younger generations, and providing them a pathway to learn, manufacturing in our country will reach a point of no return. There are several programs trying to make up for this skills gap, but they are falling severely short. They run under the assumption that if we teach them how to push a green button on a CNC machine that it will get our workforce where we need it. This cannot be any further from the truth, the running of a machine tool is only a small part of our trade. SpaceTec, EFSC, SCCAP, and SCCAP company sponsors have worked very hard to finally put in place a proper training program that will ensure our younger workforce is getting the correct curriculum along with the proper hands-on training. With this program the State of Florida is on the correct path to rebuilding our manufacturing industry and get it back on top where it should be."*

"The manufacturing sector has a well-documented skills gap", says Art Hoelke, SCCAP Chair and VP and General Manager of Knight's Armament. *"As a growing number of Americans retire, they take decades of experience and knowledge with them. I am very thankful that our country and its leaders understand the importance of training apprentices in the trade sector. Training presents a prime opportunity to expand the knowledge base for all, leads to better work processes, and is an indispensable way to stay competitive."*

The Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program looks forward to an exciting future and encourages any local companies looking to develop an advanced manufacturing workforce pipeline to join them in their mission. Interested companies or potential apprentice candidates are welcome to contact Bryan Kamm at bryank@bkammconsulting.com or Steve Kane at stevekane@spacetec.us for more information.

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About Airbus OneWeb Satellites

Airbus OneWeb Satellites is the world's first high volume, low-cost satellite manufacturer. Formed in 2016, it has revolutionized satellite manufacturing by applying the commoditization and mass production techniques utilized in aircraft and auto manufacturing to dramatically reduce production times and costs. Where a traditional satellite may cost tens of millions of dollars and take years to build, Airbus OneWeb Satellites can do it at a far lower cost and at a production rate of up to two per day.





About SCCAP

SCCAP is an industry-led consortium of Space Coast advanced manufacturing companies from a cross-section of local industries in the Space, Aerospace, Defense, Marine and Watercraft Industries. SCCAP is an autonomous sub-committee of SpaceTEC Partners, Inc, which is sponsor and fiscal administrator for SCCAP's FLDOE-registered apprenticeship program.

The consortium is led by an Executive Committee consisting of ten company sponsor members including Blue Origin, Compsys, Diamondback America, Knight's Armament, Precision Shapes, Matrix Composites, RUAG Space, Structural Composites and Vaya Space, supporting three SCCAP registered apprenticeship occupations: Mechatronics Technician, Advanced Machinist and Fiber Composite Technician.

About EFSC

Eastern Florida State College, located in the heart of Florida's Space Coast, is a co-educational, publicly supported post-secondary institution. EFSC serves over 15,000 students annually and is recognized as one of America's leading state colleges for quality instruction, organization, innovative, and leading-edge programs. The total number of Associate Degrees earned each year by students is in the top two percent in the nation.

About SpaceTEC Partners, Inc.

SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. (SPI), a 501c3 non-profit corporation, is the parent company of credentialing divisions SpaceTEC, CertTEC and Credential Testing Services. The mission of SPI is to serve as a clearinghouse of information, resources, custom knowledge assessments and credentials in selected technology areas. SPI credentials are preferred by practitioners and employers alike as a valid indicator of technical capabilities in core competencies needed in today's high performance work spaces.

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