



For Immediate Release

SCCAP and EFSC to Launch Advanced Machinist Apprenticeship Cohort in May and Mechatronics and Fiber Composite Apprenticeship Cohorts in August

Titusville, Florida, April 19, 2021 – The Space Coast Consortium Apprenticeship Program (SCCAP) – an industry-driven apprenticeship sponsored by SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. in partnership with education partner Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) and led by advanced manufacturing companies operating on Florida’s Space Coast, today announces the launch of the first cohort of Advanced Machinist apprentices. Participating companies include Knight’s Armament, Blue Origin, Diamondback America and Precision Shapes.

Under the program, ten SCCAP Advanced Machinist apprentices will begin the two-and-one-half year State of Florida registered program during the summer semester starting May 17, 2021, attend academic coursework and hands-on lab training at EFSC Cocoa Campus for two nights a week and will also work full-time on the manufacturing floors of participating companies. By mixing classroom learning with “on-the-job-training”, SCCAP apprentices learn real, immediately marketable skills and earn stackable credentials, including National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) and National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) credentials, a State of Florida apprenticeship certificate and credits that apply towards a two-year EFSC Associate’s degree in Engineering Technology.

The Advanced Machinist occupation is the second of three apprenticeship occupations supported by SpaceTEC, SCCAP and EFSC. SCCAP officially launched the first cohort of the Mechatronics Technicians in August 2019 following a formal signing ceremony attended by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis; EFSC President Dr. James Richey; Space Florida President and CEO Frank DiBello and Director of FL DOE Office of Apprenticeship Richard (Ted) Norman. Participating companies in this initial program included OneWeb Satellites, RUAG Space, Knight’s Armament and Rocket Crafters (now Vaya Space). These seven apprentices are now in their second year of the program and are expected to complete in January 2022.

SCCAP is currently in the recruitment phase to launch its second cohort of Mechatronics Technicians in the fall semester starting in August 2021 with an expected cohort size of seven apprentices. A third SCCAP registered occupation, Fiber Composite Technician, is scheduled to launch during the fall semester starting August 2021, also with an expected cohort size of seven apprentices.

By the fall semester in August 2021, if recruitment for all programs is successful, SCCAP will attain a total of at least 30 active apprentices in the three occupations.

“The Space Coast is an area where apprenticeships and other work-based learning programs are critically essential for the future health of our economy,” said Bryan Kamm, Founder and Lead Consultant. “With the onset of COVID last year, our Space Coast industries have recognized the need more now than ever to re-shore manufacturing and to develop a stronger and more reliable national supply chain of essential products to support our local industries. Our goal at SCCAP is to maintain the highest level of advanced manufacturing Industry 4.0 competitiveness in our workforce to offset any future economic, health or national security threats wherever possible.”



“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. Having a high quality and comprehensive apprentice development program enables us to strengthen the skills of our workplace and build knowledge where it is lacking. Our country has a prenominal bi-partisan support system that makes this a success. From our local industry, to our wonderful educational partners at Eastern Florida and Brevard Public Schools, our Economic Development Commission, and CareerSource, who all wholeheartedly support these efforts and truly understand how important it is to help our community.”

“Education and training beyond high school is required to be competitive in the modern workplace. Apprenticeship programs are an excellent alternative pathway for individuals to avoid college debt and receive high quality training. Employers earn the loyalty of their employees by investing in their futures as well as their own.” says Frank Margiotta, Associate Provost of Advanced Manufacturing, Eastern Florida State College.

“Due in part to the shortage of skilled labor locally to support world-class manufacturing and the cost of importing these workers, it is imperative that companies have a means of producing talent locally. SpaceTEC is proud to support the SCCAP and EFSC in this endeavour,” says Steve Kane, Executive Director of SpaceTEC Partners, Inc.

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.

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 was initially formed in 2017 by Founder and Lead Advisor Bryan Kamm and Co-Founders Airbus OneWeb Satellites, RUAG Space, Knight’s Armament and Rocket Crafters (now Vaya Space), to address a shortage of highly skilled advanced manufacturing workers on Florida’s Space Coast. Since 2017 more companies have joined SCCAP, including Blue Origin, Diamondback America, Precision Shapes, Matrix Composites, Structural Composites and Compsys, which comprise the total of ten participating company sponsors supporting its three 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.

About Kamm Consulting Group

Kamm Consulting Group, LLC is a Florida-based company that provides site selection consulting for German-speaking companies in the US and assists in GAP™ (Germanic Apprenticeship Program) Turnkey Solution Partner implementations within local US communities. GAP™ Turnkey Solution Partners are Hoffmann Group, Festo, KUKA, Siemens, EMCO Group, Bluegrass, EOS and Weiler which, together with Kamm Consulting Group offer world-class equipment, standards and curriculum for GAP™ implementations.

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