Welcome to the first edition of The Front Page: KSC’s front door to Business Development and Research and Technology

When the NASA Authorization Act of 2010 (S. 3729) identified Kennedy Space Center (KSC) as a “multi-user launch complex for Government and commercial” operations, the impending challenges of change were inevitable for KSC. In preparation for this change, our dedicated civil servant and contractor workforce is revamping and refurbishing Kennedy’s institutional facilities and infrastructure; honing and growing our technological skills to capably service Government and commercial users and their ambitious new missions; and continuing to inspire, engage, and nurture our future workforce and the space explorers of tomorrow.

Anticipating the coming change in the way we do business, in 2008 the Center Planning and Development (CPD) Directorate was formed to facilitate this imminent transition and to begin planning to make it a reality. CPD provides strategic leadership and management integration of Center planning and partnership development initiatives. Composed of four offices, (Spaceport Planning, Program Control and Integration, Partnership Development, and Research and Technology Management), CPD serves as Kennedy’s “front door” to industry and other Government organizations. To date, CPD has facilitated the formation of more than 55 active partnerships and currently is assessing 55 pending associations.

CPD serves as the primary interface for all technology development activities at KSC and provides strategic management, guidance, and integration in support of the Center Chief Technologist. The Directorate develops and maintains technology road maps, seeks strategic technology partnerships, and oversees KSC’s execution of the Space Technology Program projects.

Deputy Director, Tom Engler, closely monitors development, negotiation, and coordination of proposed reimbursable real estate services and agreements with public and private entities for use of KSC land, facilities, and capabilities. The CPD Director also serves as the KSC Chief Architect and advisor to the 21st Century Space Launch Complex initiative. Moreover, the KSC master planning function is in CPD. Look for an updated KSC 20-year Master Plan to be released later this month.

Whether establishing new partnerships, managing research and technology activities, or strategizing Center land use, CPD is at the forefront of the innovative transformation happening at our Center.

As we continue to transform into a multi-user spaceport, CPD will continue to lead the way in creating innovative partnerships worthy of The Front Page news!
Commercial enterprises and partnerships increasingly are taking advantage of economic opportunities at Kennedy Space Center and the agency is eager to add to the tally, center officials recently told the Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast during a session focused on technology transfer.

“I hope today will lead to establishing new partnerships,” said Karen Thompson, chief technologist at Kennedy. “NASA really is passionate about establishing external partners. It helps us do a better job with our development.”

All of NASA’s field centers have technology transfer programs that focus on their different specialties. The partnerships the agency has in mind fall roughly into two areas: businesses working closely with NASA scientists or resources to develop new technology benefitting spaceflight, and enterprises that adapt an existing NASA innovation into a marketable product for uses other than spaceflight.

Kennedy’s Mike Lester, Research and Technology Partnership manager, said there are plenty of examples of each working out successfully.

“We believe collaborating with Kennedy in research and technology can provide you with commercial advantages in the marketplace,” Lester told the audience at a Cocoa Beach convention center near the Florida spaceport.

Center Director Bob Cabana said, “I think we can share information and figure out what you need to do to be part of this exciting future on the Space Coast. Even though we’re a launch center, we also do a lot of technology development at KSC.”

-- Steven Siceloff

Nearly 1,000 Kennedy employees attended Kennedy Space Center’s annual Innovation Expo which included a showcase, kick-start, guest speaker engagement, tours of the center and a finale.

On Sept. 10 Kennedy’s Center Planning and Development Directorate (CPD) hosted displays by partners, bringing together center employees with many of the organizations that are helping build the center’s future.

The four-day event is designed to spark creativity and new ideas to aid in transitioning the spaceport from a historically government-only launch facility to a multi-user spaceport.

Innovation is defined as the introduction of something new or a fresh idea, method or device. Kennedy’s Innovation Expo highlights just that -- ground-breaking efforts facilitated by civil service and contractor employees, as well as partner organizations. The exhibits and presentations allow those who are developing new approaches to share how they plan to implement their ideas.

“We hope this will lead to some ‘out-of-the-box’ thinking about Kennedy becoming a multi-user spaceport,” said Scott Colloredo, director of CPD. “We also hope this will be a forum to encourage interaction between partners, resulting in developing relationships that will lead to collaborative efforts.”

Center Planning and Development is the “front door” for partnerships with Kennedy. With a partnership, the agency can allow industry to operate a facility or provide services NASA wants to maintain.

“Through partnerships with industry and academia, KSC is truly becoming a multi-user spaceport,” Colloredo said. “This is the first time we’ve had partner displays at Kennedy’s Innovation Expo.”

Booths representing CPD focused on Spaceport Planning, Partnership Development, Research and Technology, Technology Evaluation for Environmental Risk Mitigation and Flight Opportunities Programs.

Other organizations represented in the partner exhibits were: The Boeing Company, Craig Technologies, Juntura, Micro Aerospace Solutions, Par Systems Inc., Quantum Innovative Technologies, Space Coast Energy Consortium, United Paradyne Corp. and the University of Central Florida.

By Bob Granath
For the past two years, KSC has been developing a new comprehensive 20-year Master Plan.

Core strategies of the Master Plan were approved in January 2012 by the KSC Master Plan Steering Group, led by Deputy Center Director Janet Petro, in the form of the KSC Future Development Concept, (FDC), (http://kscpartnerships.ksc.nasa.gov/).

These strategies consisted of: Evolution to a Multi-User Spaceport; Divesting without Diminishing; and Leaner and Greener.

The KSC Master Plan builds upon these principles in a web-enabled medium and is segmented into three specific areas: Planning Background, Planning Conditions, and Future Development Plan. The MP gives background information as to why the plan is being prepared; describes the influences to the planning process; addresses conditions and variables that may impact future land development and activity at KSC; and expresses a desired end state, complete with implementation strategies.

Recently, members of KSC Master Plan Working Group, comprised of about 30 Subject Matter Experts from across the center, assisted in the review of the Master Plan.

On Nov. 19, KSC Center Management Council approved the plan. The KSC Master Plan will be presented to NASA HQ for concurrence in January and the website will be live shortly thereafter.

PaR Systems, Inc.

PaR Systems, Inc. of Shoreview, Minn., recently established a partnership agreement with NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida, for operation of the Hangar N facility and its nondestructive testing (NDT) equipment. Hangar N is at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station adjacent to Kennedy. The facility’s unique inventory of nondestructive test and evaluation (NDE) equipment and the capability for current and future mission spaceflight support is a resource NASA wants to retain.

“This is a considerable asset not available anywhere else,” said Amy Houts Gilfriche, Partnership Development manager in NASA’s Center Planning and Development Directorate, “The partnership is about preserving our NDE capability.”

Initially, eight PaR Systems employees with over 200 combined years of non-destructive test engineering and inspection experience will perform the work.

“We are excited about this new long-term partnership with Kennedy Space Center and the many inquiries it has already generated,” said John Pollock, vice president and general manager of PaR Systems’ Aerospace division.

For more information about PaR Systems, go to http://www.par.com/