



# Flight Opportunities

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Enjoy!

The Flight Opportunities team

## Introducing the Space Tech Catalyst Prize Competition

**Wednesday, October 4, 2023**

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. PT**

Join us for this month's Community of Practice webinar to learn more about the launch of the Space Tech Catalyst Prize. The NASA **Space Tech Catalyst Prize** will engage and celebrate individuals and organizations who amplify the capabilities of underrepresented space technology innovators and researchers. Numerous awards of \$25,000 will be made, and awardees will be invited to an in-person convening event in Washington, D.C. at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. Hear more about the challenge from its creators: Denna Lambert, inclusive innovation team lead for ESIP (Early Stage Innovations and Partnerships Portfolio), and Lynn Van Deventer, challenge coordinator with the agency's CoECI (Center of Excellence for Collaborative Innovation).

Flight Opportunities encourages the community to engage in these conversations, and participants are welcome to submit questions prior to the webinar to enable more directed responses. Please send questions to [nasa-flightopportunities@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:nasa-flightopportunities@mail.nasa.gov). *(Please note that in the event of a government shutdown, this webinar will be rescheduled.)*

### **Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

**[Click here to join the meeting](#)**

### **Or call in (audio only)**

+1 256-715-9946

Phone Conference ID: 301 927 575#

**[See all Community of Practice webinars](#)**

**Do you have ideas or suggestions for a future Community of Practice topic? We'd love to hear your thoughts. Email us at [NASA-Flightopportunities@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:NASA-Flightopportunities@mail.nasa.gov) to tell us what you'd like to see.**

## Exploring Optical Communications in the Stratosphere

Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific successfully demonstrated an optical communication link from the ground to a stratospheric balloon on August 30, 2023, as part of the Stratospheric Optical Link Demonstration (SOLD) project with essential support and collaboration from NASA's Ames Research Center. SOLD is designed to explore optical communications in the stratosphere and demonstrate the supporting capabilities needed to achieve such optical links while also overcoming the challenges of operating in the stratospheric environment.



*Credits: Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific*

## Opportunities

### NASA Seeks Judges for TechRise Student Challenge 2023-24

Do you or your colleagues have expertise in engineering, space, and/or atmospheric research? NASA is looking for **volunteer judges** for the 2023-24 TechRise Student Challenge! Volunteers must be willing to offer approximately five hours of time to review proposals for experiments flying on rocket-powered landers or high-altitude balloons. The judging period is approximately October 23 - November 10, 2023.



**TechRise** is open to students in grades six to 12 attending U.S. public, private, or charter schools – including those in U.S. territories. It offers participants hands-on insight into the payload design and suborbital flight test process, with the goal of inspiring a deeper understanding of space exploration, Earth observation, coding, electronics, and the value of test data.

**Learn more about TechRise** and **submit an interest form.**

## Coming Soon: NASA TechLeap Prize Challenge!

NASA is set to unveil the next **TechLeap Prize** challenge in October! Sponsored by NASA's Flight Opportunities program, the TechLeap Prize competition provides funding and access to suborbital flight testing for space technologies that meet a specific agency need. The competition is open to qualified commercial businesses, academic institutions, entrepreneurs, and other innovators.



NASA  
**TechLeap**  
PRIZE

Previous challenges focused on advancing **autonomous precision pointing systems** for small spacecraft and **sensing systems that detect hazards** to help spacecraft land safely in the dark.

[Read about the TechLeap Prize competition.](#)

## Events

### **Lunar Surface Innovation Consortium (LSIC) Fall Meeting**

**October 10-11**

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**



LSIC's fall meeting will focus on the United States, NASA, and Space Tech's vision for enabling the development of resilient lunar infrastructure at the South Pole of the Moon during Artemis. Panels, discussions, and working sessions will include topics such as minimum viable infrastructure, tele-robotics, autonomous robotics and activities, repurposing/re-using initial materials for evolving lunar infrastructure, and/or keeping tabs on technical systems health. The Flight Opportunities team will participate in a lightning talk and a poster session.

### **ASCEND**

**October 23-25**

**Las Vegas, Nevada**

ASCEND connects the civil, commercial, and national security space sectors, along with adjacent industries, to embrace the opportunities and address the challenges that come with increased activity in space. The conference enables technical exchanges, debates, and collaboration to help forge a sustainable off-world future. Members of the Flight Opportunities and Small Spacecraft Technology program teams will lead a discussion on the complementary role that suborbital flight testing and orbital platforms hosting payloads play in the rapid testing of space technologies.

## **Consortium for Space Mobility and ISAM Capabilities (COSMIC) Kickoff Meeting**

**November 7-8**

**College Park, MD**

The COSMIC Kickoff will connect a diverse forum of users, customers, developers, and researchers to accelerate the widespread adoption of in-space servicing and manufacturing (ISAM) capabilities as an integrated segment of the space enterprise architecture. The event will introduce COSMIC, align members with key focus areas, and define specific products for future development.

## **Annual Meeting of the American Society for Gravitational and Space Research (ASGSR)**

**November 14-18, 2023**

**Washington, D.C.**

The ASGSR annual meeting brings together the biological and physical space sciences community to share research, build collaborations, and discuss emerging issues in the field. ASGSR welcomes scientists and engineers from all career stages. The Flight Opportunities team will have a session at the meeting. Stay tuned for details.

## **American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting**

**December 11-15, 2023**

**San Francisco, California**

The AGU annual meeting convenes 25,000 attendees from 100+ countries to share research and connect with scientists and colleagues. Scientists, educators, policymakers, journalists, and communicators attend AGU to better understand our planet and environment and collaborate on solutions for global challenges. This year's conference theme is: *Wide. Open. Science.* Flight Opportunities will be supporting an innovation session on commercial suborbital flight testing.

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[NASA-FlightOpportunities@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:NASA-FlightOpportunities@mail.nasa.gov)

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**NASA Flight Opportunities Program**

Flight Opportunities is part of NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate.