



# FLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES



ISSUE 84 — JULY 2025

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## FEATURE

### Spotlight: Wanessa Priesmeyer Joins Flight Opportunities Leadership

This month we're featuring Wanessa Priesmeyer who recently began serving a detail as deputy program manager for NASA's Flight Opportunities program.

***Tell us a bit about your background and your career so far with NASA.***

I was born in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, but my family moved to Florida when I was six. I studied astronomy and physics at the University of Florida, graduating in 2006.

Growing up in Florida, I had easy access to the Kennedy Space Center and realized that NASA was not only researching the stars and galaxies but also venturing out into space! I knew that's where I wanted to be!

In 2007, I went to work for NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, in the Flight Operations Directorate as an operations planner — or “ops plan” — as part of the International Space Station Flight Control Team. The ops plan team ensures that all station crew activities are effectively scheduled, coordinated, deconflicted, and executed both in real time and over long-term planning horizons. This includes systems operations, science experiments, and maintenance as well as all ground operations across several international partners.



**Wanessa Priesmeyer**  
Deputy Program Manager

Then in 2020, I transitioned to the Program Integration Branch, which bridges the gap between flight operations and program-level stakeholders. There, I further developed the project management skills that were essential for the roles I would fill in both Aeronautics and eventually Flight Opportunities.

### ***What have you worked on at Armstrong?***

I began in Integration of Automated Systems, an advanced air mobility project, pioneering ways to avoid collisions and make air travel safer. Next, I joined the Air Traffic Management Exploration (ATM-X) project. ATM-X includes things like the efficiency of surface operations for airliners, operationalizing drones for emergency providers, and cooperative operating practices for upper altitudes, where supersonics and balloons may operate.

In 2023, I also joined the Flight Opportunities team working on parabolic flight campaign management. Given my affinity for space, working with emerging space technology was very appealing!

### ***What are you enjoying in your new role with Flight Opportunities?***

I'm excited about the opportunity to collaborate more with leaders in space commerce, such as our **flight providers**, and with cutting-edge technology researchers. I'm also thrilled that, within our "small but mighty" team, I'm finding myself working with some of the most talented folks at NASA. It's also incredibly rewarding to be at the forefront of enabling transformative capabilities that may one day operate on the Moon, Mars, or beyond.

### ***Beyond your work with NASA, what is inspiring you these days?***

As a mother of small children, much of my inspiration comes from watching them learn and grow. I'm reminded to enjoy the little things and focus on my own well-being so I can have the energy to keep up with them!

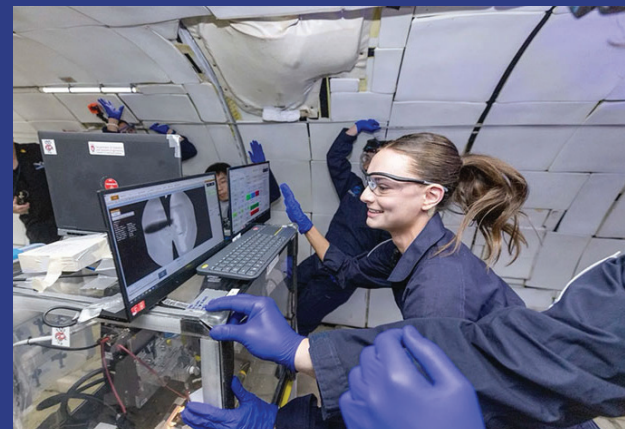
[See Wanessa featured in NASA's Faces of Technology video series](#)

## COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WEBINAR

# August Webinar: In-Space Manufacturing Roundtable: Sharing Lessons Learned and Remembering Curtis Hill

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 • 10–11 a.m. PT

In-space manufacturing offers a high-quality alternative to manufacturing on Earth with the potential to expand the space economy as well as support long-duration missions. Join us for a roundtable discussion on best practices for flight testing in-space manufacturing technologies.



*Researchers from the University of Wisconsin at Madison testing the Electrohydrodynamic (EHD) ink jet printer manufacturing processes that are relevant to semiconductors for the NASA On-Demand Manufacturing of Electronics (ODME) project. Credits: Zero Gravity Corporation*

## Remembering Curtis Hill

The in-space manufacturing community recently suffered the unexpected loss of Curtis Hill, a longtime subject matter expert at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL. Curtis fostered many technologies through Flight Opportunities and made a significant impact on the field of in-space manufacturing.

This session brings together some of the many researchers who flight tested payloads in collaboration with Curtis as a way to reflect on his legacy and continue his commitment to sharing lessons learned and supporting other researchers. We encourage all researchers to join us, including those who worked with Curtis and those who wish to learn from his legacy.

**LEARN ABOUT OUR AUGUST 6 WEBINAR**

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Update on NASA's Announcement of Collaboration Opportunity (ACO) for Space Technology Development

**Solicitation Released: July 30**

**Informational Webinar: August 6**

Interested in collaborating with NASA subject matter experts or accessing NASA facilities? The **five-year standing ACO solicitation**, which NASA **announced yesterday**, allows participants to enter into Unfunded Space Act Agreements for access to NASA's aeronautics and space resources — including facilities, technical expertise, hardware, NASA technology and software — on a no-exchange-of-funds basis.

**Flight tests with commercial providers may also be considered as part of the proposed work, with suborbital and hosted orbital flights to be provided through NASA's Flight Opportunities program via a separate Space Act Agreement.**

NASA intends to issue appendices every six to 12 months to address evolving space technology needs. The **2025 ACO Appendix A** is open for proposals until Sept. 24.

**An information webinar will be held on Wednesday, August 6 from 11am–12pm PT:**

- [Register for the webinar](#)
- [Submit and up-vote questions for the webinar](#)

**Other important dates for 2025 (Appendix A) proposals:**

- Request center letter of intent by: August 29, 2025
- Questions due by: September 5, 2025 (send to [HQ-STMD-ACO@nasaprs.com](mailto:HQ-STMD-ACO@nasaprs.com))
- Proposal Deadline: September 24, 2025

**Note that the ACO webinar begins immediately after the Flight Opportunities Community of Practice webinar announced in the article above. So you can attend both!**

**Learn more about the ACO solicitation on SAM.gov**

## Encourage Teachers to Pre-Register for the Next TechRise Student Challenge

As the new school year approaches, we encourage members of the Flight Opportunities community to let the middle and high school teachers in your area know about NASA's TechRise Student Challenge.

**Pre-registration** for teachers is now open!



TechRise seeks to equip America's future workforce with the skills needed to advance the U.S. aerospace economy. Under this nationwide contest, sixth to 12th graders team up to design an experiment under the guidance of an educator. Teams from schools in U.S. states and territories submit ideas for experiments to fly on a NASA-sponsored flight test aboard a suborbital vehicle. NASA's Flight Opportunities program provides flight testing via its cadre of commercial flight providers.

**Competition winners receive \$1,500 to build their payloads, and no experience is necessary to join the TechRise challenge.**

**Expected to open in September**, TechRise strengthens the space technology researcher community and enables students around the country the chance to engage directly with professional engineers. The experience provides a hands-on opportunity for participants to gain critical skills in engineering, computing, electronics, and more that will be required for America's technical workforce.

[Learn more about the TechRise Student Challenge](#)

## TECHNOLOGY TRANSITIONS

### Share your transition story



**Have you transitioned technology you tested with Flight Opportunities to a NASA mission or commercial use?**

**Let us know!**

**Did you know?**

NASA's **Navigation Doppler Lidar (NDL)** enables precision navigation and tightly controlled landings on the Moon or other destinations in the solar system. Developed at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, NDL was tested on a commercial rocket-powered lander in 2017 via Flight Opportunities. NASA later selected the NDL technology as a payload on two Commercial Lunar Payload Services missions: the Astrobotic Peregrine Mission One that launched in January 2024 and the Intuitive Machines inaugural mission, IM-1, that launched and landed in February 2024. The illustration is an artist's concept of NDL aiding a lunar landing with precise velocity and range sensing. *Credits: NASA*

[Share your story!](#)

[Visit our Technology Transitions webpage](#)

## ON-DEMAND WEBINARS

### Watch any of our [past webinars](#) on demand!

These webinars share best practices and important lessons learned from suborbital and orbital researchers, flight providers, and NASA personnel experienced in using flight tests to advance technologies.

Our June 4, 2025, webinar: [“Regolith Roundtable: Best Practices and Insights for Working with Regolith in Flight Testing”](#) is now available.



[Watch our on-demand webinars](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Attending any of these upcoming meetings? [Let us know!](#)

- [Small Satellite Conference](#) | August 10-13 | Salt Lake City, UT
- [2025 HELIOTECH and Suborbital Symposium](#) | September 8-12 | Laurel, MD (Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory)
- [ASGSR \(American Society for Gravitational and Space Research\) 2025](#) | December 3-6 | Phoenix, AZ (Abstract deadline extended to Aug. 1)

### NASA Flight Opportunities Program

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

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