



SpaceTEC® Talk

September 2014

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A Message from the SpaceTEC® PI...

Colleagues,

With the beginning of a new academic year, classrooms and labs across the consortium are buzzing as students dig in to build knowledge and skill over the coming months. Whether for professional development to advance in one's career, simply honing existing skills or learning a new skill for entry into the technical workforce, community and technical college classrooms provide amazing capabilities at a very competitive cost! This, coupled with recent data showing community and technical college graduates on average earn higher starting salaries than four-year college grads⁽¹⁾ makes these programs even more attractive to those looking to start or upgrade a career!

In this issue of SpaceTEC® Talk, we celebrate the winners of NASA's Commercial Crew competition, Boeing and SpaceX. This selection is a major milestone toward ending our inability to put U.S. Astronauts into space. The [award](#) is critical to future US space capability on many levels as continued operation of the International Space Station to 2024 and beyond fully staffed with a permanent crew of up to 14 may mean finally achieving full utilization of this unequalled international science asset. On the horizon, opportunities for commercial research

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offered by [Bigelow Aerospace](#) private space stations represent a quantum leap forward in the inevitable commercialization of Low Earth Orbit (LEO). Vehicles such as [Sierra Nevada's Dream Chaser](#) are targeting ease of access to these laboratories and the upcoming tests of the new Space Launch System and Orion Multi-purpose Crew Vehicle are poised to undertake the daunting task of striking out to deep space. Space tourism is poised to become a reality as well as Virgin Galactic, Scaled Composites, and Xcor push to provide sub-orbital access for tourists and small payloads.

In [CertTEC®](#), SpaceTEC®'s commercial division, developments in the ability to credential technicians for careers in aviation manufacturing, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO), composites and electronics have opened new opportunities for living wage careers in key industrial sectors. Supporting those who prepare men and women in uniform to ensure they are well-equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in their chosen specialties has received added support. In addition, the responsibility we gratefully accept for supporting those who've served honorably by helping their re-integration into society through credentialing their military skills has proven to be a key discriminator for those seeking pathways to jobs. Look for more news on these developments in the coming months as we place additional emphasis on our [VetTEC®](#) program.

With several new initiatives underway and an expanding consortium of capable partners, [SpaceTEC®](#) is well-positioned to support academic and technical training centers, military, commercial and industry professionals, and the companies who employ them. In this issue, we'll share information on new credentials, infrastructure upgrades and also introduce you to our capable new staff members who work hard every day to enable our growing customer base.

Exciting times to be sure and we thank you for your continued support, we're honored to have a seat at the table as we create and expand pathways to meaningful employment for the nation's technical workforce.

Sincerely,



Steve Kane
SpaceTEC® PI and Managing Director

(1)Peters, Mark and Belkin, Douglas (2014, June 24) Surprising Findings on Two-Year vs. Four-Year Degrees; Retrieved from the Wall Street Journal Online magazine : <http://online.wsj.com/articles/fed-study-says-it-still-makes-sense-to-go-to-college-1403618488>.

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Program Activities of Note

Space Coast Military Appreciation Day

On May 17, 2014 SpaceTEC® participated in the [First Annual Space Coast Military Appreciation Day](#). The purpose of the event was to say “thank you” to military members and their families on the Space Coast. There was no admission to the event and proceeds from contributions from vendors and sponsors was donated to the Junior ROTC units on the Space Coast.

Many generous businesses and organizations in the area donated prizes given as “thank you's” to our military related participants in the event.

SpaceTEC® set up an information booth and their contribution was to award two SpaceTEC® Core Certified Aerospace Technician® Examinations to qualified active duty personnel or veterans who elected to fill out entry forms.



FAA Commercial Space Flight Conference

To keep informed on the Commercial Space effort and to stay in touch with that industry's representatives, SpaceTEC® attended the FAA Commercial Space Conference ([COMSTAC](#)) May 7 and 8, 2014 in Washington DC. COMSTAC's charter is to provide information, advice and recommendations to the FAA AST on matters relating to the US commercial space transportation industry.

DOD Maintainers Conference

SpaceTEC® attended a Composites Technical Interface Meeting (DOD Advanced Composites Maintainers Conference) in Huntsville, Alabama June 16-18, 2014. During the conference SpaceTEC provided a presentation on composites certifications and set up a vendor's booth showcasing composites certifications but also included all of

the certifications that are offered. Prior to the conference, examiner training was conducted for Earl Thomas who joined us as the second composites examiner in the Huntsville area.



HI-TEC 2014

SpaceTEC® provided a booth during the technology showcase at the [HI-TEC](#) conference in July, which was held in Chicago, IL. As always SpaceTEC® provided some of the best give-aways. The biggest hit is Astronaut Ice Cream from the Kennedy Space Center.

HI-TEC is a national conference on advanced technological education where secondary and post-secondary educators, counselors, industry professionals, trade organizations, and technicians can update their knowledge and skills. Charged with Educating America's Technical Workforce, the event focuses on the preparation needed by the existing and future workforce for companies in the high-tech sectors that drive our nation's economy.



Major Changes/Developments of Interest

SpaceTEC® Welcomes New Employees

SpaceTEC® is pleased to announce the addition to its staff with the hiring of Sue Peterson and Michelle Arieux.



Sue has been hired part time as a Documentation Specialist and will support all certification processing as well as the business operations side of SpaceTEC Partners Inc. Sue previously worked for Troutman Technical Services at Kennedy Space Center as the HR Administrator for 18 years.



Michelle Arieux has been hired full time as a Certification Coordinator and will support all certification development, implementation and administration. Michelle previously worked for United Space Alliance in Business Operations supporting the certification program for 12 years and more recently with HT Supply for 2 years as a Business System Analyst working with PeopleSoft software.

Please join us in welcoming Sue and Michelle to SpaceTEC®.

Certification Funding for Veterans

On June 10th, 2014, SpaceTEC® received official notification from the Veterans Administration of approval for funding for all of the SpaceTEC® and CertTEC® certifications. We are waiting on notification of funding approval from Navy COOL, Army COOL and Air Force COOL for our active duty personnel.

Certification Updates

SpaceTEC® Core Recertification

SpaceTEC® has communicated to anyone who had received an Aerospace Core Certification that it is time to recertify to keep their certification current. The process to be followed for initial recertification requires certified technicians to simply update their contact information. This effort is underway presently. A [link](#) has been posted to the SpaceTEC website.

New SpaceTEC® Examiner



SpaceTEC® is pleased to welcome Mark Aldred from [Doña Ana Community College](#) as a new SpaceTEC® Core Certification examiner. To become an examiner you must first earn your certification followed by an application and examiner training process. Mark is currently a faculty member in the Aerospace Technology program at Doña Ana Community College. Previously Mark was a Trainer/Engineer with Bell Helicopter out of Amarillo, Texas and is also holds of his Airframe & Power Plant Rating (A&P).

CertTEC® Aviation Structures Technician



The CertTEC® Aviation Structures Technician certification is now fully operational. This is a new performance-based certification CertTEC® developed to address the need for a hands-on credential for an Aviation Structures Technician. The process consisted of developing written and oral questionbanks, along with practical exercises. Subject matter experts (SME's) from industry and education partners were used in the development process. Terry Sampson-Tulsa Technology Center, Shane Enman-American Airlines, Dennis

Carter & Kenny Payton from Francis Tuttle Technology Center were certified and trained as new examiners. To date, 13 individuals have been certified. The next phase is to certify and train examiners from Wichita Area Technical College who will be supporting the certification of technicians in the local Wichita, Kansas area.



CertTEC® Basic Electricity & Electronics Certification

The CertTEC® Basic Electricity & Electronics Certification has now been adapted at additional U.S. Army bases. Fort Gordon's Ordnance Electronic Maintenance Training Department (OEMTD) located in Georgia originally implemented the certification for all soldiers completing their training program. Fort Gordon has since renewed their contract and purchased additional vouchers to allow the soldiers to attempt all four certifications offered (DC, AC, Analog and Digital).



In addition to Fort Gordon, Fort Lee (Virginia) and Fort Sill (Oklahoma) Ordnance schools have also purchased proprietary card sets and vouchers to be able to offer the

same opportunity to their graduating soldiers. The Army sees great value in a performance-based credential in measuring the outcome of their training.

Coming Soon: Aviation Mechanical Assembly Technician and Avionics Technician

CertTEC® is underway developing an Aviation Mechanical Assembly Technician certification as part of an arrangement with Wichita Area Technical College ([WATC](#)), Wichita, KS and subject matter experts from participating colleges. The initial framework (written, oral and practical examination) development is underway with pilot testing of Examiner candidates expected in Wichita soon.

CertTEC® has also taken steps to initiate a performance-based Avionics Technician certification to follow in the format of the Basic Electricity and Electronics (BEE) certification by interfacing **Questionmark** examination software with [Nida](#) Corporation student trainer platforms. To read more about both of these up and coming certifications, click [here](#).

Special Events/Achievements

SpaceTEC® Credentials Open Doors

Here is an excerpt from an article written by Ellie Ashford of the American Association of Community Colleges ([AACC](#)) recently posted on the Community College Daily website: "For those seeking careers in aerospace industry - or other technology-related careers in aviation or manufacturing - SpaceTEC® certifications offer a solid credential that demonstrates knowledge and proficiency.

What makes the program unique is the nature of the exam, which includes hands-on activities as well as a written and oral component."

Click on this [link](#) to read the entire article.

Intern Updates

Community Service Learning Program Continues

SpaceTEC® continued to participate in an intern program with students from [Eastern Florida State College](#). This past semester Brandon Dubberly and Miracel Vester participated in the program. They are students in the EFSC Aerospace program. The interns volunteer 3 hours per week and get credit through the Voluntary Community Service Program at the college. Activities involved vacuum bagging basics, composites machining, drilling, and repair to create test specimens for Composites Examiner Test Kits. In addition to classroom skills in composites fabrication, upon completion of the semester, interns were evaluated by SpaceTEC® staff for core skills such as promptness, timekeeping procedures, and shop etiquette. We appreciate their assistance and hope they have gained some on the job experience which will help them obtain jobs in aerospace in the future.

An EFSC Graduate, SpaceTEC® Intern, and A Certified Technician



Here is an excerpt from an article Charles Schenkbecher, a recent EFSC graduate, SpaceTEC® intern, and SpaceTEC® Core Certified Aerospace Technician®, wrote about his experience in the Aerospace Technology program at EFSC and at SpaceTEC®. "The two years I spent in the Aerospace Technology program were awesome. The experiences I had were essential to setting me on a career path in the industry. I cannot speak highly enough of the terrific instructors in the program, as well as the staff at SpaceTEC®. Their insight and knowledge of the Aerospace industry was not only enlightening, but truly enriched the learning experience. At Eastern Florida State, and at SpaceTEC®, I found an outstanding group of individuals that truly helped me to succeed." To read more of Charles' experiences, click [here](#).

Another EFSC Student Has High Goals for Himself

Michael Tang, an EFSC student and SpaceTEC® intern wanted to share his experiences as well. He says, "After doing some research, I found out that Eastern Florida State College offered the Aerospace Technology program which was exactly what I was looking for. Then I heard about an internship opportunity with SpaceTEC® and I didn't think twice." Click [here](#) to read more of what Michael had to say.

ESCC Interns Complete MARS Program

[Eastern Shore Community College](#) interns, Alex Chrisman, James Haley, III, and Ian Rose, participated in the 2014 Summer Internship Program at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport ([MARS](#)) on Wallops Island. Following the internship, two ESCC graduates accepted full-time employment with MARS. To read the full press release, click [here](#).



To learn more about SpaceTEC® activities or to begin your certification work, contact us:

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Funded in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation

