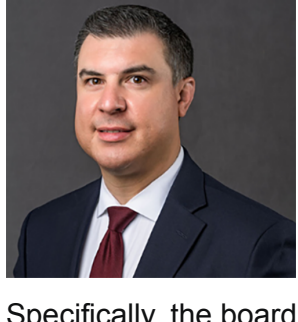




TSC Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026

Letter From Our Executive Director



TSC Supporters,

This past quarter has been an active one for the Texas Space Commission, marked by significant board action, continued engagement with national and state-adjacent partners, as well as growing momentum across civil, commercial, and national security space activities.

Specifically, the board held conversations with leaders from the National Security Space Launch portfolio. They also approved key SEARF investments, including grants to support space research and development efforts at the University of Texas at Austin and Rice University, strengthening Texas' academic and applied research capabilities. In addition, the board finalized a grant to the Borderplex Alliance Foundation to establish a Space Innovation Hub with a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) - a significant step in expanding defense-related aerospace infrastructure in West Texas. These actions strengthen our ability to align state investments with national security priorities and dual-use infrastructure needs.

Alongside this board activity, TSC leadership has remained actively engaged at the national level. For example, TSC board chair Gwen Griffin and I met with the new NASA administrator at Johnson Space Center; I presented at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting alongside TxDOT, Texas A&M Transportation Institute, and University of North Texas researchers; attended Commercial Space Week moderating a panel with Kathy Lueders and Space Florida; and attended the Space Force Association's Spacepower Conference. These engagements help ensure Texas remains closely aligned with federal partners, emerging policy discussions, and the evolving needs of the space sector.

We also welcomed two new members to the TARSEC executive committee, Dr. Lori Magruder from the UT Center for Space Research and Jason Kim, CEO of Firefly Aerospace. Their expertise will further enhance the work of TARSEC as it evaluates and refines Texas' aerospace priorities in 2026 and beyond. Dr. Magruder, per statute, is the UT System Chancellor's designee and Mr. Kim was appointed by Lt. Gov Dan Patrick. Texas continues to capture national attention. Recently, it was announced that the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce will host the first-ever Texas Space Summit in 2026 - a significant milestone demonstrating that interest in our state's capabilities now reaches every corner of the American space ecosystem. Texas is also hosting Space Foundation's Innovate Space: Finance Forum in Dallas this week, further reinforcing the state's growing role as a convening ground for capital, industry, and innovation. At the same time, several Texas-based companies are currently supporting NASA's Artemis II mission, scheduled for launch in March, underscoring the state's direct contribution to one of the most consequential milestones in U.S. human spaceflight.

The activity underway is no longer theoretical - it is operational. Specifically, yesterday during an open meeting, TSC Board members and TARSEC executive committee members shared findings from their working group meetings to help set a clear and forward-looking strategic direction for the agency's work ahead. Thank you for your continued engagement and support as we advance Texas' leadership in space.

Sincerely,
Norman Garza, Jr.
Executive Director

Updates From TSC

The latest news and activities from TSC



\$14.1 Million Approved by Texas Space Commission for SEARF Grant Award

In an open meeting on February 17, 2026, TSC board of directors voted to conditionally approve a grant application totaling \$14,154,767 for a proposed project led by Rice University.

[Learn more](#)

Space Foundation to Host Innovate Space: Finance Forum in Partnership With Texas Space Commission at JW Marriott in Dallas

Space Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in 1983 to advance the global space community, announced it will host Innovate Space: Finance Forum - an executive-level conference focused on how capital is shaping the future of the space economy - in coordination with TSC.

[Learn more](#)



\$9.3 Million Approved by Texas Space Commission for SEARF Grant Award

In an open meeting on December 19, 2025, TSC board of directors voted to conditionally approve a grant application totaling \$9,270,000 for a proposed project led by The University of Texas at Austin.

[Learn more](#)

Texas Governor Greg Abbott Reappoints Gwen Griffin to Space Commission Board

Governor Greg Abbott reappointed Gwen Griffin to the TSC Board of Directors for a term set to expire on February 1, 2031.

[Learn more](#)



TARSEC welcomes two new appointees to the Executive Committee

Dr. Lori Magruder (UT Center for Space Research) and Jason Kim (Firefly Aerospace) are the newest members of the TARSEC Executive Committee.

[Learn more](#)

In The Spotlight

February 18-19, 2026
JW Marriott
Dallas Arts District,
Dallas, Texas



INNOVATE SPACE: FINANCE FORUM

S P A C E F O U N D A T I O N

Fueling the Future: Driving Innovation and Capability

Innovate Space: Finance Forum is designed to spark dialogue, foster partnerships, enable deal-making, and explore strategies to strengthen global space investment.

Leaders Shaping the Future of Space Capital in Dallas, Feb 18-19

TSC is partnering with Space Foundation to host the Innovate Space: Finance Forum. Held over two days, the event will convene private equity firms, institutional investors, family offices, venture capital, and space industry leaders to explore emerging financial mechanisms, forge partnerships, and drive deal-making to build a sustainable and diversified space ecosystem that scales public-private collaboration and unlocks the next wave of commercial growth and technological breakthroughs.

[Register today](#)

Recent Media Highlights

Recent media coverage and insights from TSC Board, grant awardees, and staff



Astronauts Are Going Back to the Moon For The First Time in Half a Century

TIME



CesiumAstro Plans \$500M Investment and significant expansion In Texas

Office of the Texas Governor



STARCOM launches Captain's Leadership Course in partnership with Texas A&M

United States Space Force



Interlune Announces Details of NASA STTR Project

Associated Press



Aegis Aerospace Partners with United Semiconductors

Payload



UT System signs agreement with NASA

The Daily Texan



First Public Meeting for Concho Valley Spaceport Feasibility Study: Mission to Space

PR Newswire



Mitsubishi Joins Starlab as Major Space Station Customer

I-Connect007



Intuitive Machines, SpaceX, and Blue Origin featured in an article on data centers in space

TIME



First Look Inside Starlab Space Station

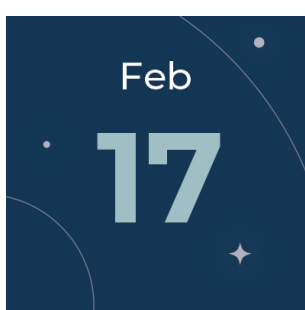
CNBC



Blue Origin pauses New Shepard rocket launches

El Paso Times

Upcoming Events



Texas Space Commission, open meeting: Board of Directors

JW Marriott Dallas Arts District | Dallas, TX

The TSC Board will hold a public meeting, available to the public in person and via livestream.

[Learn More](#)



Innovate Space: Finance Forum

JW Marriott Arts District | Dallas, TX

Board Chair Gwen Griffin and Board Directors Brad Morrison and Evan Loomis will speak at this event.

[Learn More and Register](#)



IAA-UT Space Traffic Management Conference

Bass Lecture Hall, LBJ School of Public Affairs | Austin, TX

The Space Traffic Management conference, "Operational Assurance for All," will convene experts from around the world to discuss and exchange knowledge on Space Traffic.

[Learn More and Register](#)

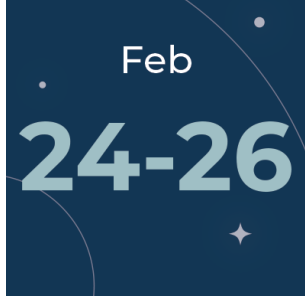


Space Academy

Capital Factory | Dallas, TX

Capital Factory's Space Academy is designed to help founders in the dual-use space industry navigate the commercial space sector as it relates to national security, and connect with key players in the space, defense, and innovation communities.

[Learn More and Register](#)



ASCENDxTEXAS

South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center | Houston, TX

TSC Board Chair Gwen Griffin, Executive Director Norman Garza, Jr., TARSEC Executive Committee Chair Stephanie Murphy and Vice Chair Brian Freedman will speak at the session *Thriving in Exploration: Xpanding Aerospace Synergies*.

[Learn More and Register](#)

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