



Tuesday, July 22, 2025

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Genesis Engineering Solutions, Inc.
4501 Boston Way, Lanham, MD 20706**

Meeting Minutes

Commission Members in Attendance

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| 1. Dale Moore, EdD [Chair] | Southern Maryland Navy Alliance |
| 2. Georgie Brophy [Vice Chair] | Maryland Space Business Roundtable |
| 3. Willie Brown, PhD | University of Maryland Eastern Shore |
| 4. Ryan Gerard | Goddard Contractors Association |
| 5. Charles Ichoku, PhD | University of Maryland Baltimore County |
| 6. Makenzie Lystrup, PhD | NASA Goddard Space Flight Center |
| 7. Robert Rashford | President and CEO of Genesis Engineering |
| 8. Robert Braun, PhD | Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory |
| 9. Jennifer Lotz, PhD | Space Telescope Science Institute |

Department of Commerce Attendees

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| 1. Ricardo Benn | Deputy Secretary, Innovation and Growth |
| 2. John Gilstrap | Assistant Secretary, Innovation and Growth |
| 3. Ulyana Desiderio, PhD | Sr. Director, Office of Strategic Industries and Entrepreneurship |
| 4. Amy Duray | Program Manager, Federal Business Relations |
| 5. Colter Menke | Program Manager, Aerospace |

General Public Attendees

- | | |
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| 1. Kim Mozingo | Maryland Technology Development Corporation |
| 2. Tom Sadowski | Maryland Economic Development Corporation |
| 3. Sarah Horta | Maryland Economic Development Corporation |
| 4. Cynthia Simmons | NASA Goddard |
| 5. Shrolles Ray | NASA Goddard |
| 6. Phillina Tookes | NASA Goddard |
| 7. Joseph Eimer | Maryland Space Grant Consortium, JHU APL |
| 8. Sterling Spangler | Analytical Mechanics Associates |

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Moore called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to Genesis Engineering. He thanked Mr. Rashford and his staff for hosting the meeting and introduced the newest commissioner, Cedric

Jacob, Director of Operations, Space Structures Complex at Middle River, MD. He invited Dr. Jacob to introduce himself and following that completed a roll call of meeting attendees.

Review and Acceptance of April 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Moore asked for feedback on the minutes of the April 22, 2025 MATC meeting. Hearing none, Dr. Moore asked for a motion to approve the minutes, which was made by Ms. Brophy and seconded by Ryan Gerard. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Commerce Updates

Deputy Secretary Benn first acknowledged and thanked departing NASA Goddard Center Director Makenzie Lystrup for her leadership for the organization and partnership with Maryland Commerce and welcomed Acting Center Director, Cynthia Simmons. He expressed his desire to continue working closely with NASA Goddard through the leadership change.

Deputy Secretary Benn then provided a few updates for the work Commerce leadership have undertaken in the previous few months. He mentioned the focus the agency has put on working to increase commercial interests and investments in the State of Maryland. He also noted that for the aerospace industry specifically, an increase in capital isn't necessarily the challenge, Maryland must find a way to better announce our capabilities and assets to the nation.

Dr. Moore posed the question to Deputy Secretary Benn; "How can the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission be more connected with the initiatives that are taking place at the Maryland Department of Commerce as well as other initiatives taking place in Maryland agencies?" Deputy Secretary Benn mentioned that participation in the commission is one way to receive periodic updates, but that the agency will also provide introductions to other state organizations and councils as required. Assistant Secretary Gilstrap also mentioned that coordination has been taking place to engage with autonomous vehicle companies throughout the country and those conversations have been facilitated by partnerships in other state councils such as the Maryland Advanced Air Mobility Council.

Innovative Solutions to Today's Challenges

Tom Sadowski, Executive Director for the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) provided a presentation describing MEDCO's current efforts and ways in which MATC can utilize MEDCO for their own work.

Following the presentation, Dr. Moore asked if the development of aerospace zones would fit into MEDCO's capabilities. Mr. Sadowski confirmed that "space making" is one of the areas they focus on. Director Lystrup noted that there is a lot of interest within NASA for partnerships with higher education, commercial and other federal organizations and Mr. Sadowski mentioned that they can be used for advisory services but rely on a local partner for any project.

DefTech & FLLIP: Accelerating Maryland Innovation

Kim Mozingo, Vice President of Federal Programs for the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) provided a presentation describing TEDCO and more specifically DefTech and their recent pilot program Federal Lab Leveraging Innovation to Products (FLLIP). She described the history of the organization as well as the planned future growth which will include four

new advisors to assist in emerging lighthouse industry sector expertise. The FLLIP program currently has three years of funding and is working to bring in funding from other sources to continue the efficacy of the program. Finally, Ms. Mozingo mentioned that DefTech is working to develop a large language model system that will help with the development of “DefTech Academy” as well as research and development reports to provide further assistance to Maryland companies.

Overview and Discussion of State Aerospace Consortium Models

Ms. Brophy informed the commissioners about aerospace commission and consortium models used in other states, specifically highlighting Space Florida and the Texas Space Commission.

Space Florida was established after the NASA Space Shuttle program ended. Facing a significant loss of federal funding and jobs tied to the program, Florida was compelled to seek new ways to support its aerospace industry and citizens. Ms. Brophy noted that Florida strategically invested a minimal amount of state funds into the commercial space industry, which yielded a substantial return on investment. She suggested that a similar opportunity might exist in Maryland if the MATC were to become a grant funding organization.

In 2024, the Texas Space Commission was established as a Texas state agency. This commission consists of 17 employees and is overseen by a nine-member board. The board's representatives are drawn from prominent Texas aerospace industry, federal, and higher education institutions. Additionally, the Texas State Legislature created the Space Exploration & Aeronautics Research Fund (SEARF), which was allocated \$150 million in FY25. This fund provides grants to businesses, nonprofits, governmental entities, and higher education institutions engaged in space exploration, research, or the aeronautics industry. Ms. Brophy emphasized that the Texas organization has been able to move quickly to provide financial assistance to the aerospace industry because of the dedicated staff and their ability to award grants.

Working Group Updates

Ms. Brophy updated the group on the efforts that have been made to hold an aerospace focused venture capital summit. The working group has determined that perhaps the best course of action is to conduct a meet and greet type of event first to help investors and industry members learn from each other about what capabilities and strengths each party is looking for. This event will ideally still consist of daytime panels and roundtable discussions followed by an evening networking reception. Sara Horta (MEDCO), mentioned that they are planning an event in the fall on the UMES campus that will highlight aerospace and industry, federal and higher education partnerships. There may be a possibility to merge the two events.

Dr. Ichoku provided an update for his R&D workstream working group. He mentioned that the Department of Commerce has contracted with an organization to help gather information about resources throughout the state. Although the website is still in development, there should be a product to share with the commission soon. Dr. Ichoku also mentioned that he and Dr. Flatau met with a University of Maryland colleague at College Park who maintains a list of organizations who fund research opportunities. He and Dr. Flatau will continue working with their colleague to determine the best avenue to share that information with the commission.

A short discussion followed which highlighted that it may be important to look for areas of interest in which funding doesn't currently exist. These areas may be the most impactful places for the state to provide funding. The commission heard from two state organizations during the meeting (MEDCO and TEDCO) who may be able to help determine those areas in need of assistance. It was also noted that the aerospace industry in Maryland is accustomed to the way federal funding mechanisms work, commercial aerospace funding opportunities are different and will require different approaches.

Assistant Secretary Gilstrap mentioned that tech companies are becoming more reliant on high capacity computing infrastructure and Maryland has historically not invested in those areas but the state is beginning to focus more intently on it in recent years. Gilstrap also mentioned that venture capital organizations are very focused on the emergence of quantum computing and its value for technology companies. He said new companies which utilize quantum computing tend to get more interest from prospective investors.

Dr. Moore provided a quick update on the effort to establish aerospace zones in Maryland. He noted that the state has highly concentrated areas in different regions such as around NASA Goddard, Southern Maryland, the lower Eastern Shore and surrounding BWI airport, but those areas seem to be disjointed and don't coordinate with each other. He asked the group how those areas might be highlighted in order to enhance their value to the state, a question which will require a response for the strategic report. Director Lystrup mentioned that while funding decisions at the federal level are currently creating a tumultuous environment for workers and institutions in Maryland, it may not be temporary and there is a possibility that the functions of NASA Goddard could be moved to other states. The state should be prepared for that possibility

Dr. Brown noted that it's important to keep in mind the higher education institutions that are present in any proposed aerospace zones. He went on to share that the term workforce doesn't just refer to education, but it is any activity that helps employees in their career readiness. Any regions of the state determined to be aerospace zones need to highlight excellence throughout the industry. Dr. Jacob noted that Maryland has a plethora of advanced manufacturing facilities and a wealth of experienced aerospace industry workers, all of those can be considered part of an aerospace zone.

In Ms. Uzzell's absence, Dr. Desiderio (Commerce) provided a short update concerning marketing efforts the Maryland Department of Commerce conducts to highlight the aerospace industry in the state. She noted that there is increased attention on aerospace as it is related to one of Governor Moore's recently announced industry lighthouse sectors. She also mentioned that Ms. Uzzell is connected with multiple national and international technology related tradeshow and conventions and working with her would be helpful to help spread information about the strength of the aerospace industry in Maryland

Public Comments

Dr. Moore called for public comments with none made

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Dr. Moore thanked the speakers, the Commissioners and members of the public for the discussion

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.