

06 April 2023

SPACE CENTRE AUSTRALIA ATTRACTS BIG NAMES TO CAIRNS

High level dignitaries from all over the world will converge on Cairns in just a few weeks as preliminary works on Australia's first large-scale, multi-use spaceport continues with site works set to commence mid-2024.

Heads of the Australian Space Agency, delegates from NASA, the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), as well as key business leaders and local, state, and federal politicians will take part in Space Centre Australia's first North Queensland space workshop to become better informed of the project and the far-reaching economic benefits a spaceport will bring to the region and Australia as a whole.

Founder and CEO of Space Centre Australia, Mr. James Palmer, says the large-scale infrastructure project will be a substantial investment in the region and will create a completely new industry for FNQ that will help sustain not only the town of Weipa and surrounding regions long after its mining lifespan, but for many generations to come.

"As result of our commitment to advancing the Australian and International space industries, we are designed with a strong focus on collaboration. Space Centre Australia's facility will inject an estimated \$120 Million into the Far Northern economy during the initial construction phase and an estimated \$100 Million per annum thereafter. Up to 300 permanent jobs will be created once operational and 1000s of construction and support jobs throughout its development," said Mr. Palmer. The project is well advanced in its planning and has been in the works for the past five years.

"We have chosen to fly under the radar up until this point in an effort to safeguard land, finances, and design feasibility prior to undertaking any serious construction work. We are consulting with the Weipa community and many traditional owner groups continuously throughout this process and they are excited to see the project coming to fruition," Mr. Palmer said.

The current construction timeline will ensure the launch facility is ready to commence operations by the end of 2026 to accommodate small scale launch missions with large-scale launches by 2029.

"We intend to have the facility ready for large-scale Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO) launch capabilities by the third quarter of 2029. There is still a lot of work to do here at home and internationally. It's an exciting time for Far North Queensland and the many and varied industries who will benefit from the introduction of a space industry in the community. The site will be able to support commercial operations as well as future potential Defence needs. But what is most exciting is we will have a clear pathway for our next generation to learn on site and gain employment as part of the space industry."

Sponsored by AusIndustry the North Queensland Space Workshop is being hosted at the Cairns Regional Council's Civic Reception Room on 21st April. The event will be the first of many to be conducted throughout the region prior to construction commencement to ensure the community is aware of how to get involved.

For more information go to: <https://spacecentreaustralia.com/media/>

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