



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
OF FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich Talks Space with Aerospace Leaders on the Space Coast**

**Brevard County, Fla.** (January 26, 2012) – The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (EDC) hosted an aerospace/high-tech industry roundtable discussion today with Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House and candidate for President of the United States of America. The invitation-only event was held at Brevard Community College's Simpkins Fine Arts Auditorium in Cocoa.

About a dozen top industry and educational executives engaged in open dialogue directly with Speaker Gingrich to discuss current opportunities and challenges for aerospace and high-tech industries in Brevard County. Executives from Embraer, Florida Institute of Technology, Harris Corporation, Lockheed Martin, United Space Alliance, United Launch Alliance, and Space X addressed opportunities and challenges in human space exploration, commercial space, aerospace and aviation education, and workforce capacity.

Speaker Gingrich noted that he favors a less bureaucratic NASA and significantly reducing red tape. He has proposed that special incentives, as opposed to government spending, would help Americans go back to the moon, explore Mars, and develop deep space exploration.

"We appreciate Speaker Gingrich's time and candid discussion with our aerospace and high-tech executives," said Lynda Weatherman, president & CEO of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast. "The Space Coast has become the face of challenges within national space policy. It is important for all candidates to understand that, while the Space Coast is still reeling from job loss, leadership in space goes beyond our borders and is a matter of national security and global competitiveness."

The EDC has invited all current GOP presidential candidates to similar roundtables on the Space Coast.

### **About the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast**

The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast is dedicated to attracting new business and investment and expanding existing industry throughout the Space Coast and encouraging a competitive business environment. Visit [www.SpaceCoastEDC.org](http://www.SpaceCoastEDC.org).

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