

Aerospace States Association

34th Annual Meeting and 7th State Aerospace Policy Summit

Hosted by Lieutenant Governor Howie C. Morales

Albuquerque, New Mexico | August 17–20, 2026

TENTATIVE AGENDA (Subject to Change)

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM | Welcome Reception

- **Venue:** Hotel Chaco – Level 5 Rooftop
- **Details:**
 - **Badge Pickup:** Those attendees who are not staying at Hotel Chaco or Hotel Albuquerque will pick up meeting badges at Hotel Chaco during the reception.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026 (New Mexico Aerospace, Research, and Innovation Tour Day)

7:00 AM | Depart for New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech)

- **Venue:** Hotel Chaco (Coffee and snacks before bus departs)
- **Details:**
 - **Badge Pickup:** Those who have not picked up badges on Monday will be able to pick them up prior to boarding.
 - **Access Requirement:** Meeting badges are required prior to boarding the bus and participating in tours.

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM | Breakfast, Welcome Remarks & NM Tech Highlights Tour

- **Venue:** NM Tech, Socorro, NM
- **Details:**
 - **Tour:** New Mexico Tech's cutting-edge campus facilities and research driving the future of space exploration and technology.
- **Venue:** NM Tech

10:30 | Depart NM Tech

En-Route Briefing: NM Tech will provide a bus briefing featuring a university geologist speaking on the unique geology of New Mexico.

12:30 PM | Arrive at Spaceport America

- **Venue:** Spaceport America
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12:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Lunch & Panel Discussion 1: Inland Spaceports Airspace Access and Opportunities

- **Venue:** Virgin Galactic, Spaceport America
 - **Moderator:** LG Matt Pinnell
 - **Panelists:**
 - **Scott McLaughlin** – Chief Executive Officer, Spaceport America
 - **John Oberst** – President and Chief Executive Officer, Alaska Aerospace
 - **Christie J. Lee** – Director of State and Local Affairs, United Launch Alliance
 - **Sean Fortener** – Chief Executive Officer, Seagate Space
 - **Details:**
 - **Format Integration:** Integrated lunch and panel discussion
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2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Tour of the GTS (Virgin Galactic Facilities / Global Travel Solutions)

- **Venue:** Spaceport America
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3:30 PM – 4:00 PM | Pluto Aerospace Launch (Tentative)

- **Venue:** GTS Apron, Spaceport America
 - **Details:**
 - **Bonus Feature:** Coinciding External Event Viewing Opportunity from the GTS Apron – Pluto Aerospace Rocket Launch of their “Dash” vertical launch flight vehicle.
 - **Footnote:** The external event is a pre-scheduled, independent activity not organized for the ASA event. Viewing opportunity is tentative, depending entirely on weather conditions and technical readiness.
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4:00 PM – 4:45 PM | Brief on Spaceport America / Hermeus / Prismatic (Tentative)

- **Venue:** Spaceport America
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4:45 PM – 5:00 PM | Depart from Spaceport to ABQ

- **Venue:** Spaceport America
 - **Details:**
 - Pick up travel snack for the bus
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8:00 PM | Arrive at Hotel Chaco

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026 (7th State Aerospace Policy Summit – Hotel Albuquerque)

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM | Breakfast

8:00 AM – 8:15 AM | Welcome Remarks

- **Speakers:**

- **Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham**
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8:15 AM – 9:30 AM | Panel Discussion 2: Expanding Aerospace Programs in Higher Education – Ensuring the Workforce of Tomorrow

- **Moderator: LG Howie Morales, New Mexico**

- **Panelists:**

- **Dr. Patricia Sullivan** – Interim VP for Research & Director, Physical Science Laboratory, NMSU
- **Carlos Rey Romero** – Associate Vice President for Research, New Mexico Tech
- **Rita Peterson** – Chief Executive Officer, Caribou Thunder
- **Michelle Lucas** – CEO and Founder, Higher Orbits

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM | Networking Break

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM | Panel Discussion 5: Space Commissions/Aerospace Caucuses – Expanding Policy Engagement

- **Moderator: LG Dianne Primavera, Colorado**

- **Panelists:**

- **Day Hochman-Vigil** – NM House of Representatives Majority Whip
- **Brett Mecum** – Chair, Arizona Space Commission
- **Gwen Griffin** – Chair, Texas Space Commission

11:00 AM – 11:15 | Networking Break

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM | Panel Discussion 5: Tax Codes and Infrastructure – What Your State/Tribe/Territory Needs to Build an Effective Aerospace Economy

- **Moderator: LG Joe Kelly, Nebraska**

- **Panelists:**

- **Jennifer Goodrum** – Director of State and Local Government Operations, Rocket Lab
- **Grayson Ardies** – Executive Director, Oklahoma Department of Aerospace and Aeronautics
- **Mal McGhee** – Tribal Council Member, Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- **Mark Lester** – Head of Aerospace Strategy, Merrick & Company

12:30- PM – 1:45 PM | Policy Luncheon / Panel 4: Federal/State/Tribe/Territory Roundtable Discussion

- **Moderator:** LG Josh Tenorio, Guam
- **Panelists:**

- **TBD**
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1:45 PM – 2:00 PM | Networking Break

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM | ASA Business Meeting (ASA Members Only)

5:00 PM | Depart for Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum

- **Details: Southwestern Evening Attire Encouraged**
Denim • Bolo Ties • Boots • Silver & Turquoise Jewelry Welcome
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5:30 PM | Cocktail Reception

6:30 PM | 10th Annual Thomas R. Hobson / Robert A. Davis, Jr. Award Dinner

- **Keynote Speaker:** TBD
 - **Award Recipient:** Col. Mike Heil, Ph.D
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9:00 PM | Balloon Glow and After-Dinner Reception / Depart Museum

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026 (National Security and Aerospace Innovation Day)

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM | Breakfast

- **Venue:** Hotel Chaco
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8:30 AM – 11:45 AM | Sandia National Laboratories Tours / Kirtland Air Force Base Tours

- **Venue:** Buses depart from Hotel Chaco (Pre-registration required)
 - **Details:** Sandia and Kirtland tours will run concurrently
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12:30 PM – 2:00 PM | Policy Luncheon / Panel 6: Golden Dome and Drone Warfare – The Future of National Defense

- **Venue:** National Museum of Nuclear Science & History
 - **Moderator:** LG Josh Tenorio, Gham
 - **Panelists:**
 - **Brittany Smart** – Senior Advisor for Defense, Community, and Research, University of Alaska Fairbanks
 - **Vera Topasna** – Executive Director, Guam Community Defense Liaison Office
 - **Paul R. Pfahler** – Senior Manager, Strategy and Business Development, Lockheed Martin Space
 - **Mason Martinez**- Director of Operations, AeroVironment
 - **Edl Schamilogl, Ph. D** - Distinguished Professor Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
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2:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Aerospace Industry Tours (Rocket Lab & AeroVironment)

- **Venue:** Albuquerque Facilities (Pre-registration required)
 - **Details:**
 - **Group 1:** Begins at Rocket Lab facility.
 - **Group 2:** Begins at AeroVironment (AV) facility.
 - **Rotation:** Mid-afternoon swap so all attendees visit both sites.
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4:30 PM | Depart for Hotel Chaco

- **Venue:** Rocket Lab / AeroVironment
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6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Closing Reception- Hosted by Guam

- **Venue:** Hotel Albuquerque
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026

Departure Day
