

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

- **Location:** 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)

6:30 AM Bus Check-In, Badge Pick-Up, Coffee & Light Snacks

- **Last Call for Badge Pick-Up:** If you have not yet received your badge, please collect it at the check-in prior to boarding the bus.
- **Location:** Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town – Main Entrance
- **Drive:** Hotel Albuquerque to Socorro, NM

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

- **Arrive: NM Tech, Socorro, NM**
- **Details:**
 - **Note:** Meeting badges are required prior to boarding the bus and participating in site tours.
 - **Virgin Galactic Security:** Entry to Virgin Galactic requires pre-submitted and approved security clearance. Individuals who have not received prior security approval will not be permitted to board the bus or participate in the tour.

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

- **Welcome Remarks:**
- **Michael Jackson, Ph.D.** – President, New Mexico Tech

- **Briefing:**

Lique Coolen, Ph.D. – Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research, New Mexico Tech

- **Tour-** and explosive demonstration at NM Tech's Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center. Brief about first responder training program and National Domestic Preparedness Consortium.
 - **Location:** NM Tech's Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center
-

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

- **Location:** Spaceport America, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico
-

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Lunch & Panel Discussion 1: Inland Spaceports Airspace Access and Opportunities

- **Location:** Virgin Galactic, Spaceport America
 - **Note:** Spaceport America tour times subject to change
 - **Moderator:** LG Matt Pinnell, Oklahoma
 - **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
-

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | Tour of the GTS (Virgin Galactic Facilities / Gateway to Space)

- **Location:** Spaceport America
-

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM | Pluto Aerospace Launch (Tentative)

- **Location:** 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.

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM | Brief on Spaceport America Window Tour

Location: Spaceport America Runway

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM | Depart from Spaceport

Itinerary: *While start and end times remain fixed, the internal order of events and site visits may be adjusted during the tour to accommodate live operations.*

Location: Spaceport America

-
- **Drive: Spaceport America to Albuquerque**
 - **8:00 PM | Arrive at Hotel Albuquerque**

Evening | Dinner on Your Own

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

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM | Breakfast

8:00 AM – 8:10 AM | Welcome Remarks

- **Speaker:** Rob Black, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Economic Development Department

8:10 AM – 9:20 AM | Panel Discussion: Expanding Aerospace Programs in Higher Education – Ensuring the Workforce of Tomorrow

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

9:20 AM – 9:30 AM | Networking Break

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Panel Discussion: 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

10:40 AM – 10:50 AM | Networking Break

10:50 AM – 11:50 PM | Panel Discussion: 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

12:00 PM – 1:15 PM | Policy Luncheon: ASA Chair's Address & Keynote Address

Introduction: Lieutenant Governor Howie C. Morales, New Mexico

- **Keynote Address:** Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of New Mexico
- **ASA Chair's Address:** Lieutenant Governor Josh Tenorio, Guam, ASA Chair

1:15 PM – 1:25 PM | Networking Break

1:25 PM – 2:55 PM | ASA Business Meeting (ASA Members Only)

2:55 PM – 4:30 PM | Break / Personal Time

Hobson/Davis Award Dinner Program

4:45 PM to 5:00 PM | Depart Hotel Albuquerque

- **5:00 PM** | Arrive at Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum
- **5:00 PM – 6:00 PM** | Cocktail Reception
- **6:00 PM – 8:00 PM** | Hobson/Davis Award Dinner & Program
- **8:00 PM – 9:00 PM** | Balloon Glow

9:00 PM | Depart for Hotel Albuquerque / Hotel Chaco

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

6:45 AM – 7:45 AM | Breakfast

- **Location:** Hotel Albuquerque
 - **7:45 Drive:** Hotel Albuquerque to National Museum of Nuclear Science and History
-

8:30 AM Meet Visitors at Nuclear Museum

9:00 AM | Transfer to Assigned Sandia National Laboratories Tour Bus

9:30 AM | Kirtland Air Force Economic Development Tech Transfer

9:45 AM | Comfort Break & Depart for Tours

8:30 AM – 11:35 AM | Morning | Federal Tours

11:35 | Depart to Museum

All cleared participants will enter **Kirtland Air Force Base** together and then proceed to their assigned tour:

- **Sandia National Laboratories** – Government Officials
- **Sandia National Laboratories** – Government Officials, Industry Leaders & Summit Attendees
- **Kirtland Air Force Base** – Government Officials, Industry Leaders, & Summit Attendees

Access Requirement: Participation is limited to attendees who submitted the required security information by the established deadline and have been cleared for access. Attendees who did not complete the required clearance process will not be permitted to participate in the federal tours.

Cleared participants will be directed to their assigned tour upon arrival.

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM | Policy Luncheon / Panel 6: Golden Dome and Drone Warfare – The Future of National Defense

- **Location:** National Museum of Nuclear Science & History
 - **Moderator:** LG Josh Tenorio, Guam
 - **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
 - **Aaron Westman**- Aaron Westman, Senior Director for Business Development, AeroVironment
 - **Edl Schamiloglu, Ph. D - Distinguished** Professor Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
-

2:00 PM – 4:30 PM | 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM | Rocket Lab & AeroVironment

Attendees will be divided into two groups. **Both groups will visit both locations.**

- **2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | Tour Rotation 1**
- **Group A – Rocket Lab**
Location: Rocket Lab, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- **Group B – AeroVironment**
Location: AeroVironment, Albuquerque, New Mexico

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM | Groups Swap Locations

Groups depart their first tour location and travel to the second location.

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM | Tour Rotation 2

- **Group A – AeroVironment**
Location: AeroVironment, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- **Group B – Rocket Lab**
Location: Rocket Lab, Albuquerque, New Mexico

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Closing Reception- Hosted by Guam

- **Location:** Hotel Albuquerque, Salvador House
-

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026

Departure Day
