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NEWS

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States and Aerospace Industry Partner to Make America Stronger

Arlington, Va. — The Aerospace States Association (ASA) an association of state Lt. Governors and the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) representing aerospace manufacturers have signed a historic agreement to grow high paying jobs, increase economic development and inspire America’s youth to join the aerospace workforce of the future.

ASA Chair, Alabama Lt. Governor Kay Ivey said “America’s aerospace industry is our nation’s and our states’ lifeblood. It provides for national security, provides transportation for our economy, and provides the ability to explore space, the next frontier. The aerospace industry grows our state economies, employs more than one million high-paying jobs, and is a source of innovation and inspiration for our youth to enter our STEM workforce.”

“Our agreement with ASA complements AIA’s efforts at the national level and helps us expand our reach into individual states and regions,” said AIA President and CEO David F. Melcher. “We look forward to working with state elected officials and listening to their concerns to ensure we have the infrastructure and political support needed to grow our industry. We have had engagements with state officials through our workforce education summits and at international airshows; working with ASA allows us to broaden our efforts and increase our visibility with all of ASA’s members.”

What a collaboration between AIA and ASA will do for American aerospace and defense:

- Help inform aerospace state officials of the challenges and opportunities facing our industry and better position them to wisely legislate, regulate and engage with an industry that has been a growth engine for our economy for more than a century.
- Educate and train aerospace professionals (the next generation of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs) who will develop the next generation aviation system and pioneer the frontiers of space.
- Develop, test and incubate new technologies across a wide spectrum of corporate, academic and private innovation infrastructures.
- Sponsor aerospace conferences and business roundtables to enable networking among key aerospace leaders.
- Facilitate attractive tax structures, leverage venture capital and seed public-private partnerships to promote entrepreneurship and expand space enterprise.

- Convey the multiple scientific, educational and commercial benefits of space exploration to the general public.

AIA and ASA will be collaborating closely at events like AIA's Supplier Management Council meetings in Cincinnati, Fort Worth and Tucson later this year, as well as ASA State chapter events. These meetings will provide opportunities for industry and state and regional officials to interact and better understand how to support each other's activities to our mutual benefit. In addition, AIA's Team American Rocketry Challenge and ASA's Real World Design Challenge programs are collaborating to promote and provide resources for the events this year and find ways to further the collaboration in the future.

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About AIA: Founded in 1919 shortly after the birth of flight, the Aerospace Industries Association is the most authoritative and influential trade association representing the nation's leading manufacturers and suppliers of civil, military and business aircraft, helicopters, unmanned aircraft systems, space systems, aircraft engines, homeland and cybersecurity systems, materiel and related components, equipment services and information technology.

About ASA: ASA is a non-partisan organization representing the grass roots of American aerospace and aviation. It is a 501(c)3 scientific and educational organization of Lieutenant Governors, Governor-appointed delegates and associate members from the aerospace industry, academia, and non-profit organizations. ASA was formed in 1993 to promote a state-based perspective in federal aerospace policy development and to support state aerospace initiatives that enhance economic development opportunities and student/teacher education outreach including the Real World Design Challenge STEM initiative. ASA maintains direct ties to the executive branches of state governments throughout the nation. ASA state chapters work to educate state lawmakers on the benefits and issues of the aerospace community in their state.