Space Tech Ecosystem Partnerships

STEP - El Paso 2026 2-4 Nov

Date/Time	**Event**/Moderator	Confirmed/*Invited* Participants
Nov 2, 2026, UTEP Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace Centers		
5:00-7:00pm	**Welcome Reception** Conference Check In Welcoming Remars Tours Aerospace/3D Center	Dr. Shery Welsh, Executive Director, UTEP Aerospace Center Dr James Carney, Executive Director, UTEP W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation
Nov 3, 2026, Starlight Event Center		
7:30-8:45am	**Registration and Networking (SPONSOR)**	
9:00-9:05am	**STEP El Paso 2026 Welcome/Vision**	Mr. Mike Pryor, Executive Director, Texas Space Coalition
9:05-9:10am	**El Paso Welcome**	*Judge Ricardo Samaniego, El Paso County*
9:10-9:30am	**Regional Opportunities** Richard Dayoub, Founder Thunderbird Management Consulting	Lori Blong, Mayor, Midland TX Natalie Littlefield, Chief Strategy Officer, Borderplex Alliance
9:30-10:15am ***PANEL 1***	***Workforce Development: Space in West Texas*** *Shery Welsh, Executive Director, UTEP Aerospace Center*	Toni Balzano, Vice President Strategy & Communication, Q-Station Leila Melendez, Executive Director, Workforce Solutions Borderplex Michelle Lucas, CEO, Higher Orbits
10:15-10:30am ***Fireside Chat***	**White Sands Test Facility** Ariana Guerrero, SVP Ops, Texas Space Coalition	Darryl Gaines, NASA Director, White Sands Test Facility
10:30-10:50am	**Networking (SPONSOR)**	
10:50-11:30am ***PANEL 2***	**Partnering for Space: NASA, Universities, and Industry** Montgomery Goforth, Acting Director of Business Development and Technology Integration, Acting Chief Technologist, NASA Johnson Space Center	Axiom Space, Megan E. Ortiz, Senior Director of External Relations, Axiom Space Spin Launch, Chris Moore, Brandon “BT” Cesul, Senior BD Manager of US DoD Programs, Umbra Space Eduardo Monarez, Director at UTEP Aerospace Center
11:30-12:15pm ***Fireside Chat***	**US Space Force Futures** Joseph Roth, Col (ret), USSF, Associate Vice President, National Security Programs & Classified Research, UTEP	Col Jonathan Shea, Director, Concepts and Technology Center, US Space Force (S9)
12:15-12:45pm	**Luminary Lunch Provided (SPONSOR)**	
12:45-1:30pm	**Luminary Speaker**	Norman Garza, Executive Director, Texas Space Commission
1:30-2:15pm ***PANEL 3***	**Advanced Manufacturing for Space**	Lonnie Love, AM Lab Fellow, Sandia National Lab Hector Sandoval, Corporate Fellow, Lockheed Martin

https://txspacecoalition.org/portal/events

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	James Carney, Exec Dir, UTEP W.M. Keck Center for Advanced Manufacturing	Tyler LeBrun, Technical Program Manager, Barnes Global Advisors
2:15-2:30pm	**Networking (SPONSOR)**	
2:30-2:45pm	**Space Test Program**	Dr David Walker Callaway, Chief, New Mission Development, DoD Space Test Program/DoD Human Spaceflight Payloads, US Space Force
2:45-3:30pm ***PANEL 4***	**Space Technologies** Jonathan Luminati, Executive Acquisition Specialist, SAVI	Stephanie Murphy, CEO & Chairman, Aegis Aerospace Peter Wegner, Co-Founder & CEO, BlackVe Dr. Gillian Bussey, PhD, Deputy Chief Science Officer, US Lt Col Matt Coates, Director, Dept of War Space Test Program, US Space Force
3:30-4:15pm ***Keynote Fireside***	Mr. Ron Lopez, President, Astroscale U.S.	Honorable Dr. Heather Wilson, President, UTEP
4:15-4:20pm	Closing Remarks	Mike Pryor, Texas Space Coalition
4:20-6:00pm	**Conference reception and networking (SPONSOR)**	
Nov 4, 2026, Regional Tours: Blue Origin Launch Site 1 / El Paso Space Innovation Hub		
	Blue Origin Launch Site 1	
6:45-8:30am	**Transit to Launch Site 1**	Depart from Plaza Hotel
8:30-10:00am	**Site 1 Tour**	Host, Summer Webb, Deputy Launch Site Director
10:00-12:30am	**Transit to El Paso**	Arrive
	El Paso Space Innovation Hub, 221 N. Kansas, Suite 100, El Paso	
10:00-10:30am	**Hub Briefing**	Host, Borderplex Alliance
(tentative)	***Additional Tours***	*TBD*

Confirmed
Invited

2 Nov – Evening Reception
UTEP, Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace Center (AMAC)
1800 Hawthorne St
El Paso, TX 79968
Parking: Schuster 4 (Intersection of Shuster Ave & Hawthorn St)

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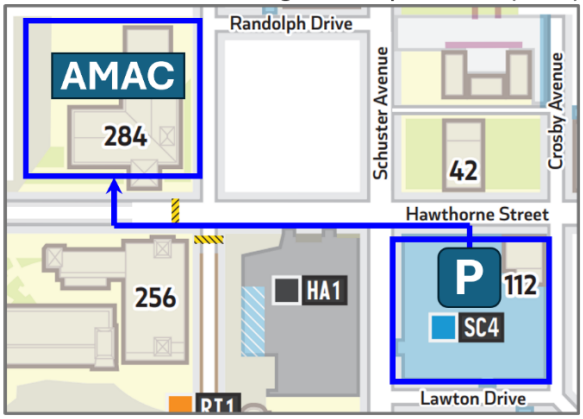
STEP - El Paso 2026 2-4 Nov

2 Feb, 5-7p Evening Reception
UTEP Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace Center (AMAC)



Parking in Shuster-4 (SC4) Lot

3 Nov – Conference Event
Starlight Event Center (Top floor)
6650 Continental Dr,
El Paso, TX 79925
Parking: Open parking in garage structure on floors 1-5 of event center

4 Nov – Local Tours
BlueOrigin Launch Site-1
Meet: TBD
Parking: Open Mills Center parking garage recommended

Space Innovation Hub
Meet: 221 N. Kansas, Suite 100, El Paso
Parking: 222 N. Kansas, El Paso (Wells Fargo Parking Garage); street parking is also available