



Board of County Commissioners
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commercial Astronaut Training Facility Eyed for Spaceport Camden

WOODBINE, Ga. – May 11, 2020 – Opifex Global, a provider of aerospace training facilities and Camden County, Georgia have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore commercial astronaut training facilities near the proposed Spaceport Camden. Advised by three former NASA astronauts, Opifex Global utilizes the same quality curriculum, simulators, and training devices that people have come to expect from the space program and adapted them to train commercial astronauts.



Former Navy explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) diver, Barton Bollfrass founded Opifex Global with the mission of providing labor services for the commercial space industry. The curriculum couples classroom education with real world, hands-on experiences in simulators such as vacuum chambers, zero gravity flights, and gyro-seat spinners to recreate the environment in orbit. The centerpiece of the training facility is a three story, neutral-buoyancy tank with blacked-

out surfaces that allows trainees to practice repairing subsystems while wearing a pressurized spacesuit, underwater, in the dark.

“Spaceport Camden is an excellent location for our training facility which will provide off-world training solutions for private industry, military, academia, and the general public,” said Bollfrass.

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Commissioner, District 1

CHUCK CLARK
Commissioner, District 2

JIMMY STARLINE
Commissioner, District 3

GARY BLOUNT
Commissioner, District 4

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Commissioner, District 5

“Private Spaceflight training was one of the targeted industries identified by Astralytical in the Mission Possible report released in November of 2017,” said County Administrator and Spaceport Project lead, Steve Howard. “We are just seeing the beginning of the demand for the innovation and research park that will accompany Spaceport Camden,” added Howard.

County officials, executives from Opifex Global and the real estate development team at Organic Code Development LLC look forward to working together to make commercial astronaut training a reality in Camden County.

More about Spaceport Camden: Our Vision is to develop a successful world class spaceport through a public-private partnership that establishes Camden County as the Commercial Space Center of the United States. Our Mission is to create the premier spaceport strategically positioned to provide economic diversity with a competitive advantage for the space sector, Camden County, the State of Georgia and the United States of America. For more information, please view our website at www.SpaceportCamden.us.

More about Opifex Global: Opifex Global is making space accessible and affordable to private industry. We provide aerospace training facilities for a fraction of traditional government costs. Opifex Global utilizes the same quality curriculum, simulators, and training devices that people have come to expect from the space program, the only difference is we focus on the commercial and private sectors. For more information, please visit www.opifexglobal.com.

Find us on:



CamdenSpaceport



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