

North Brevard Business Review



*A quarterly review of business news in Mims, Port St. John, Scottsmeer, and Titusville
Published by the North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ) • Brevard County, Florida*

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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS

OneWeb Satellites, a joint venture between **OneWeb**, a satellite-based Internet provider, and **Airbus Defense and Space**, has announced plans to build a new 100,000 sq. ft. manufacturing building in Exploration Park in North Brevard, the area located immediately outside NASA's secured Kennedy Space Center complex. The project is expected to cost more than \$85 million in construction and equipment acquisition, including state-of-the-art robotics, inspection methods, testing equipment, and automated data acquisition systems used in the assembly, integration, and testing of spacecraft. The project, which is being assisted with financial incentives from the State of Florida, Space Florida, and the North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ), is expected to create 250 new jobs for the area, with an average annual wage of \$65,000 per job.

OneWeb Satellites will use its new North Brevard factory to build platforms, equipment, and satellites for government and commercial customers worldwide. Once completed, the facility will be able to deliver production of more than 15 new satellites per week, greatly increasing the production time for satellite manufacturing and assembly. One of the company's first orders will be the production of 900 communication satellites for its parent company, OneWeb, with an initial delivery scheduled for 2017. For more information on the company, visit www.OneWeb.world.

North American Surveillance Systems (NASS), a manufacturing and engineering design firm, recently won a U.S. Air Force contract valued at \$39 million for the delivery of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems for use in small military aircraft. According to the U.S. Defense Department, the contract will involve the making of modifications to aircraft such as the Cessna 208 Caravan model for military sales to the countries of Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and the Philippines. The contract will also involve the provision by the company of training and field service support. The project is expected to create 10 new jobs.

NASS currently employs more than 25 people at its Titusville facility in the Spacecoast Regional Airport. The company, which built a new 12,000 sq. ft. hangar facility in 2014, was recruited to the area in 2013 by the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority, the City of Titusville and its economic development team, and the EDC of Florida's Space Coast; the project also received approval for financial assistance from

the North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ). Additional information on the company can be found at the firm's website, www.NASSusa.net.

New Energy Systems, Inc., an electrical systems provider and installer for both residential and commercial users, has entered into a contract to purchase and renovate a 10,000 sq. ft. blighted industrial warehouse near Garden Street in Titusville. The project will be assisted with financial help from the North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ). New Energy is currently headquartered in Titusville, but housed in several buildings; the renovation project will permit the firm to consolidate its operations into one central location. The redevelopment project is expected to cost more than \$600,000, and is expected to lead to the creation of 10 new jobs for the area. The company currently employs more than 25 people locally, and more than 100 throughout project sites across the southeastern U.S. For information on the company, go to www.nesiService.com.

A Sign Company, a manufacturer of illuminated and electronic exterior signage, recently purchased a new fabrication facility on Hopkins Avenue in Titusville. The 5,000 sq. ft. building, which had been unoccupied for several years, will permit the company to produce signage for its commercial accounts. A Sign Company is owned by Mark and Lina Frank, and employs 6 people. With the expansion move, the company anticipates adding new staff positions over the coming years.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Stinger Fiberglass (American Sports Car Design)

Located in the second phase development of the Spaceport Commerce Park in Titusville, **Stinger Fiberglass** manufactures customized light weight fiberglass hoods, bumpers, and spoilers for sports cars. Marketed under the name of "American Sports Car Design," the company produces parts for various models of Chevy, Ford, Dodge, and Plymouth automobiles. Utilizing a 15,000 sq. ft. building in the park, the firm also makes special, easy to install kits for converting classic models into the "muscle car" vehicles seen in movies like Steve McQueen's *Bullitt*. The company was started in 1979 by Rex Orr, and has witnessed a steadily growth in annual sales over the years. Under current owner Artie Schricker, all parts are hand-built to ensure a quality resin-to-glass ratio; every part goes through an extensive quality control procedure. Employing more than 15 people, Stinger Fiberglass is one the unique manufacturers in North Brevard that contribute to the community's "artisan made" label. For more information on the firm, visit www.americansportscar.com.

COWORKING SPACE OPENS IN DOWNTOWN TITUSVILLE

CoLaunch, a shared office space concept, has opened in downtown Titusville. A project of the North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ) and the Greater Titusville Renaissance, the coworking center offers memberships for entrepreneurs and independent contractors seeking an affordable alternative to a traditional office setting. The 2,500 sq. ft. space, located at 2323 South Washington Avenue and across from the new **Titus Landing** retail center, features two conference rooms and dedicated office units. **CareerSource Brevard** also plans to occupy space inside CoLaunch, where it will provide training and support services for potential entrepreneurs and for those individuals transitioning back into the workforce. For more information on the Titusville coworking space, visit www.CoLaunch.biz.

ECO-TOURISM'S ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE AREA

With the opening of the last section of Florida's 275-mile **Coast-to-Coast Connector** biking trail in downtown Titusville, city and business leaders foresee the prospect of a growing eco-tourism trade – beyond those visitors that already travel to the area's beaches at Canaveral National Seashore and the wilderness areas of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (numbers that exceed 200,000 annually). According to a 2011 economic impact report released by the **East Central Florida Regional Planning Council**, the average spending per person of someone using a bike trail was \$20 on food, beverages, books, maps, and bike maintenance. In adjacent Orange County, 1.7 million people were estimated to use the trail system a year, producing a total spending impact of \$32 million annually.

MOON EXPRESS NEARS GOAL OF BEYOND EARTH ORBIT FLIGHT

As reported recently in *The Wall Street Journal*,¹ the private aerospace company **Moon Express**, which is based in North Brevard at the Kennedy Space Center, is getting closer to obtaining permission from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for sending its lunar lander to the Moon's surface; the FAA regulates rocket launches in the U.S. Moon Express' ability to send its suitcase-sized spacecraft, which is designed to carry scientific payloads and to perform retrieval functions, beyond Earth's orbit has attracted attention in the aerospace industry, given existing international treaties regulating and protecting celestial bodies. As the commercial space sector grows, the company's approval could set the standard for other private-sector firms seeking government approval for deep space missions, at least for the next few years. For more information on the company, visit www.moonexpress.com.

SITE CLEARING BEGINS ON BLUE ORIGIN CAMPUS

Haskell, a leading design-build construction firm specializing in industrial, government, and civil infrastructure markets, has begun site clearing and pad preparation activities for aerospace company **Blue Origin** on the 139-acre parcel in North Brevard's Exploration Park, a site that will serve as the company's rocket production complex, forecast to employ 330 persons. The company's manufacturing building is expected to be completed by late 2017. Visit www.blueorigin.com to learn more.



Photo Credit: Blue Origin

¹ From the June 6, 2016 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*; "U.S. Poised to Clear Private Moon Mission," by Andy Pasztor.

AVAILABLE BUILDING IN NORTH BREVARD

45,000 sq. ft. office/light industrial building on Grissom Parkway in Titusville, near Space Coast Regional Airport; recently underwent \$1.3 million upgrade. Contains 5 secure data rooms, CAT-6 high speed cabling, fiber optic back-up, 3-phase power, LED lighting, full kitchen/cafeteria, exercise room, and hardwood flooring in executive offices. Situated on approximately 2.76 acres, with 200 parking spaces. Entire second floor could be used by another tenant. [Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.] Building available for sale or lease. Listing agent: Michael Gaich, CCIM of Michael Gaich Realty, 321-453-4200. Google “You Tube – 8855 Grissom” for a video tour of building.

ABOUT NORTH BREVARD AND THE ZONE

Located in coastal, east central Florida, the region known as North Brevard is an approximately 200-square mile area of Brevard County that includes the communities of Mims, Port St. John, Scottsmeer, and the City of Titusville. Bordered by the St. John’s River to the west and the Indian River Lagoon and Atlantic Ocean to the east, the region has a population of more than 145,000.

With an economy based upon a diverse mixture of aerospace, manufacturing, healthcare, boating, and tourism, the region is the home to **NASA’s** famed **Kennedy Space Center** and to world-class firms such as **Boeing, Embraer S.A., Blue Origin, VectorWorks,** and **Gold Tones Musical Instruments**. Information about the region’s “quality of life” is available via the website for the Greater Titusville Renaissance, www.greatertitusville.com. Statistical information is available at www.northbrevard.biz.

The **North Brevard Economic Development Zone**, created in July 2011 by the Brevard County (Florida) Board of County Commissioners, is a Special Dependent District under Florida Statute, Chapters 125 and 189. The Zone was formed with the goal of facilitating job growth and economic development in the northern part of Brevard County following the end of NASA’s Space Shuttle program. In that regard, the Zone seeks to provide financial assistance to businesses prepared to make a substantial capital investment in the area and create a significant number of new jobs. To view the Zone’s written Economic Development Plan and eligibility criteria for program participation, visit www.NBEDZ.com.

THE NORTH BREVARD BUSINESS REVIEW is published quarterly by the North Brevard Economic Development Zone. All information provided is deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Please address any comments or questions to Troy Post, CEcD, CBE, at 321-960-1458, or electronically via troy.post@brevardcounty.us, and remember that it is never too early to start on your Christmas shopping list.



North Brevard Economic Development Zone

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