High-Tech Opportunities To Rural Georgians
Camden County and Space High-Tech History

In 1965 – The Thiokol Corporation tested the world’s most powerful rocket engine in preparation for flights to the moon. The test was done in Camden County on the site of the proposed spaceport.

Camden County was a contender as a launch site for the Apollo Missions.
Why Catalyst Project is Important?

• Re-developing a stranded asset.

• Close proximity to interstate, railroad, airport, and barge access, as well as Virginia’s Wallops Island and Kennedy spaceports.

• Georgia Tech is the largest producer of aerospace engineers in the U.S., yet our graduates have to move elsewhere for work. The spaceport would keep more talent in the state and the coast by attracting Aerospace and other high tech companies.

• Georgia Tech is the alma mater of 14 shuttle astronauts (out of the hundreds hired by NASA).

• Enhances local employment opportunities for transitioning military personnel from nearby military installations.

• Offers high tech opportunities to rural Georgians.

Source: 1964 Brochure, Thiokol Space Booster Division

Prior to formation of the Space Booster Division, Thiokol teams had searched the Atlantic and Gulf coastal areas for a site on which to develop the very large rocket motors. This site in Camden County, Georgia, was selected in 1961. It was chosen because of its proximity to the Atlantic Missile Range, its abutment to the intracoastal waterway, its immediate access to deep water, and the availability of rail and highway transportation. In contrast to the many other sites surveyed, the Camden County location also had a fifty year record of practically no hurricane damage.
What this means for jobs and economic activity

- The global space economy is currently valued at around $350 billion
  Source – Commercial Spaceflight Federation

- Industry analyses by Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Bank of America indicate it could grow to $1 trillion or more by the 2040’s
  Source – US Chamber of Commerce

- Current opportunities include telecommunications and broadband, Earth systems and weather forecasting, GIS and GPS, agricultural geo-monitoring & more

- Future opportunities will include space situational awareness, space-based solar power, orbital debris remediation, hypersonic point-to-point transportation, commercial human spaceflight, the commercial recovery of space resources, and providing broadband coverage for the Internet of Things
What this means for teachers and students

- More opportunities for experiential learning in STEM subjects
- Areas like 3D design and manufacturing, electronics, programming and AI, machining and trades, and more
- More opportunities for research access to space
- More opportunities to inspire students to get involved
Licensing and Permitting Process
Licensing & Permitting Process

- The Camden County Board of Commissioners is the applicant and must apply to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for a Launch Site Operators License.
- Entire process is led by the FAA and its Office of Commercial Space Transportation.
- Diligent Safety Review – In over 300 licensed launches, the FAA never had a casualty of the uninvolved public.
Next Step in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process

FAA Issues the Record of Decision (ROD) ................................................. 11

Publish Final EIS .................................................................................. 10

- Publish Draft EIS
- Public Review Period
- Public Draft EIS
- Identify Mitigation
- Analyze Environment Impact
- Study Affected Environment
- Develop Alternatives
- Identify Purpose & Need
- Scoping

T-2 To Lift Off
What is Analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

- Air quality
- Biological resources (including fish, wildlife, and plants)
- Climate
- Coastal resources
- Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f)
- Farmlands
- Hazardous materials, solid waste, and pollution prevention
- Historical, architectural, archeological, and cultural resources
- Land use
- Natural resources and energy supply
- Noise and compatible land use
- Socioeconomics, environmental justice, and children’s environmental health and safety risks
- Visual effects (including light emissions)
- Water resources (including wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, groundwater, and wild and scenic rivers)
Next Step in the Licensing and Permitting Process

- Launch Site Operator’s License Application Submitted
- Upon Acceptance of Application, 180-day Review Period Begins

Next Step - Licensing Decision
Kennedy Space Center

“The unique relationship the refuge shares with NASA is testimony that nature and technology can coexist and thrive.”

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Merritt Island Brochure
Spaceport Camden—A Catalyst for Economic Development

Serving as a Community Focal Point for Aerospace Workforce Development and Training

Payload Processing

Expanded Education Opportunities

Industry & Manufacturing

Space Tourism

Business Incubators

STEM Opportunities
“Never be limited by other people’s imaginations.”

— Mae Jemison,
Engineer, physician, NASA astronaut,
and first black woman to travel into space