



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
OF FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST

## **EDC Lauded at Northrop Grumman Dedication Event**

*Brevard County organization played key role in aerospace giant's 1,000-job expansion*

**Brevard County, Fla.** (September 20, 2013) – The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast's essential role in helping bring Northrop Grumman's expansion – and 1,000 high-paying jobs – to the Space Coast earned the praise and recognition of political and business leaders on Friday at the dedication ceremony for the company's Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence.

The expansion is part of consolidation within Northrop Grumman's Aerospace Systems sector, and cities in California, New York and Alabama were among those competing for the new center.

EDC President and CEO Lynda Weatherman joined Florida Governor Rick Scott, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, representatives of Florida's state delegation and numerous community and business leaders at the event staged just beyond the construction site that will house the 200,000-square-foot design center. The facility is scheduled to open next summer.

"Lynda Weatherman, you do a great job," Governor Scott told the 200-plus guests and company employees. "You can tell in our state where the growth is going to be – you can see who has great economic development efforts locally – and this area does. And that's why we've had a lot of great projects in the last two and a half years, and Lynda has led that."

Northrop Grumman will invest more than \$61 million in its Melbourne Center of Excellence, which will be one of just five centers nationwide. A second center will be located in St. Augustine.

"We are proud to be involved in such an important, impactful project," Weatherman said. "To help bring 1,000 jobs to the community that average \$75,000 in annual salary, especially during a time of defense cutbacks and sequestration concerns, is a major accomplishment. This expansion is one of the largest economic development projects anywhere in the country in 2013 and we look forward to the deep and lasting benefits it will bring to the Space Coast."

The EDC responded quickly when it was enlisted to help land the deal in the spring, providing the company guidance on a variety of things, from schools to workforce to taxes. It drafted a 13-page response to a blind Request for Proposals and structured and delivered the successful framework for local and state incentives.

**-more-**

## Page 2 – EDC Lauded at Northrop Grumman Dedication Event

“Under the strong – and I do say strong – visionary leadership of Lynda Weatherman and her incredible board and staff, that team has just been a tireless advocate for a competitive business environment here on Space Coast and for the industries that drive our local economy,” Rick Matthews, Vice President, Manufacturing Operations and Melbourne Site Manager, said in his remarks.

He continued, “I can tell you we are just so thankful, and I speak not just for Northrop Grumman, but for all the businesses here, for the work you and your team does for Space Coast business.”

The EDC highlighted the competitive operations costs and skilled workforce that helped convince Northrop Grumman to locate one of its centers here. Speakers at the event Friday touted that work and the community’s strengths.

“As a former full-time Melbourne resident and business leader, I can say with authority that Florida’s business climate was a key factor in our decision to expand operations both here in Melbourne and in St. Augustine,” said Tom Vice, Corporate Vice President and Sector President for Northrop Grumman’s Aerospace Systems. “From the schools and universities to the economic development organizations, great political support and of course the warm way of life, everyone here today has made Florida truly a welcoming place to work and to live.”

Northrop Grumman will fill 1,000 jobs over the next four years. The jobs, including hundreds of engineering positions, will have an overall impact of \$75 million every year once hiring is complete. The estimated 869 indirect jobs the expansion creates will generate an additional \$50 million in yearly impact.

In addition to the wage impacts it is generating, the company is spending at least \$46 million on real estate and construction and \$15 million on tangible property, such as equipment.

###

### **About the Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast**

The Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast is dedicated to attracting new business and investment and expanding existing industry throughout the Space Coast, influencing change on government laws and regulations affecting economic development, promoting the Space Coast to encourage new investment, supporting efforts of Space Coast military installations, and relaying new programs and procedures to assist manufacturing and

**-more-**

## Page 3 – EDC Lauded at Northrop Grumman Dedication Event

high-tech companies. The EDC is a private, not-for-profit coalition whose stakeholders are business leaders committed to the economic growth and stability of Florida's Space Coast. Visit [www.SpaceCoastEDC.org](http://www.SpaceCoastEDC.org) for more information.

### **About Northrop Grumman**

Northrop Grumman is a leading global security company providing innovative systems, products and solutions in unmanned systems, cybersecurity, C4ISR, and logistics and modernization to government and commercial customers worldwide. Please visit [www.northropgrumman.com](http://www.northropgrumman.com) for more information.

###