



## **Spaceport America Inks MOU with Globally-Recognized Economic Development Engine The Borderplex Alliance**

**LAS CRUCES, N.M. (Thursday, January 4, 2024)** – The Borderplex Alliance and Spaceport America today signed a Memorandum of Understanding, formalizing a new collaboration between the two organizations. This partnership will open up thrilling opportunities to propel the Borderplex region's economy to new heights.

"We are thrilled about teaming up with Spaceport America," said Jon Barela, CEO of The Borderplex Alliance. "Together, we will initiate new programs that stimulate job creation and capital investment in our region. The commercial space industry is expanding rapidly, and this alliance ensures the Borderplex will be at the forefront of this 21<sup>st</sup>-century industry."

Spaceport America, the world's first purpose-built commercial spaceport, has seen great success since its 2010 founding. The spaceport enables aerospace companies to innovate and test technologies in rocket launches, space tourism, astronaut training, and more.

"Partnering with The Borderplex Alliance gives a big boost to Spaceport America's mission," said Scott McLaughlin, Executive Director of Spaceport America. "This collaboration broadens our reach and helps grow New Mexico's role as a leader in the commercial space sector."

With its proximity to Spaceport America, the Borderplex region is well-positioned to capitalize on this partnership. The spaceport has already spawned many new economic development opportunities in the region. This alliance will enable more economic activity in R&D, manufacturing, and high-tech services.

"Together, we will create more economic development opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math," added Barela.

Through this strategic alliance, the two organizations will collaborate on marketing, business development, and policies that enable the commercial space industry to thrive in the Borderplex region. Both parties look forward to launching transformative aerospace projects that create good-paying jobs and fuel economic growth.

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**Spaceport America** (<https://www.spaceportamerica.com>) is the first purpose-built commercial spaceport in the world. The FAA-licensed launch complex, situated on 18,000 acres adjacent to the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico, has a rocket friendly environment of 6,000 square miles of restricted airspace, low population density, a 12,000-foot by 200-foot runway, vertical launch complexes, and about 340 days of sunshine and low humidity.

Some of the most respected companies in the commercial space industry are tenants at Spaceport America: [Virgin Galactic](#), [HAPSMobile/ AeroVironment](#), [UP Aerospace](#), [SpinLaunch](#), and Prismatic Ltd., a subsidiary of BAE Systems.

**The Borderplex Alliance** (<http://borderplexalliance.org>) is an award-winning economic development and policy advocacy organization. It is independent, non-partisan, and private sector-led. The mission of The Borderplex Alliance is to bring jobs, hope, and opportunity to the Borderplex region.

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