



Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

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NEWS RELEASE

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Oklahoma Aerospace Summit and Expo 2007 Set to Takeoff Next Week

OKLAHOMA CITY – Nearly 800 people, including aerospace industry leaders, government officials, educators and technologists, will be in Oklahoma City next week to discuss the future of the aerospace industry during the sixth annual Oklahoma Aerospace Summit & Expo, May 21-23, at the Cox Business Services Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

Tinker Air Force Base, Rose State College and The State Chamber are hosting the 2007 Oklahoma Aerospace Summit & Expo, considered the state's premier aerospace conference.

Keynote speakers for the event include such notables as Michael Wynne, secretary of the Air Force; Sue Payton, assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition; Dr. Enrique Barrera, professor and chair of mechanical engineering and materials science at Rice University; and Hal Chrisman of AeroStrategy. In addition, many of Oklahoma's top aviation and aerospace leaders from both the public and private sectors will serve as speakers throughout the summit.

Some of topics covered during the summit include "Investing in Aerospace: The Oklahoma Engineering Student Pipeline," "Why Do Business in Oklahoma?" "Educational Opportunities for MRO Professionals," "The Future of Aerospace: Nano-Technology!" and "Cutting Edge Aerospace Technologies," plus many more.

More than 100 exhibitors, including representatives from various aerospace companies, federal and state agencies, and higher education institutions, will also be on hand to display many of their products and services geared toward the aviation and aerospace industry.

"It's an honor to be a part of the Oklahoma Aerospace Summit and Expo," said Robert Conner, director of the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center. "This is an important time for us because this year we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force and also the centennial for the Great State of Oklahoma. These occasions remind us of the rich history and partnership Oklahoma has with the Air Force and the aerospace industry. We are privileged to have the Honorable Michael W. Wynne, secretary of the Air Force, participate at the summit and look forward to hearing his address."

Dr. Terry Britton, president Rose State College said, "Rose State College is a proud founding partner of the Oklahoma Aerospace Summit and Expo. This extraordinary event promotes our state's remarkable aerospace industry. We welcome the summit's two main keynote speakers, Secretary Michael Wynne and Dr. Enrique Barrera. Their attendance truly demonstrates Oklahoma's ever-growing national prominence in aerospace and technology."

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“The State Chamber is very pleased to be one of the three hosts of the Oklahoma Aerospace Summit and Expo again this year,” said Dick Rush, CEO of The State Chamber. “We are especially excited to bring Dr. Enrique Barrera of Rice University to this year’s conference to share his insights about how nanotechnology will play a key role in the future of aerospace.”

For more information about the summit, please contact Erin Wright, aviation and government affairs liaison for the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission and steering committee chair, at 405-604-6901 or erin.wright@oac.state.ok.us.

To view the full agenda, please visit the summit’s website at www.okaerospacesummit.org.

The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission's mission is to promote aviation, which includes fostering the growth of the aerospace industry and ensuring the needs of commerce and communities across Oklahoma are met by the state's air transportation system comprised of 114 public airports.