

**Notes from the Congressional Black Caucus'
Space Entrepreneurship Forum
"What Are The Opportunities For African Americans In
The Government's New Space Initiatives?"
September 15, 2010 Washington DC**

Meeting Description

The private space industry is estimated to become about a one trillion dollar industry by 2020; space tourism alone could be a multi-billion dollar industry by the same year. This forum will raise awareness of entrepreneurial opportunities and areas of growth within the African American business community. Akin to the precipice of the Internet boom, this forum addresses how African American entrepreneurs can cross the 'space divide.'

Proposed Speakers

- Representative Donna F. Edwards (MD4)
- Representative Diane Watson (CA33)
- Representative Chakah Fattah (PA2)
- Representative Marcia Fudge (OH11)
- Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX30)

Mr. Ken Harvey was the moderator of two panels.

Panel 1, which was entitled "Government," included the following panelists:

- Nona Cheeks, Goddard Space Center
- Treon M. Glenn, Senator Bill Nelson's Office
- Dr. George C. Nield, Commercial Space Transportation FAA
- Michael Beavin, Office of Space Commercialization, Dept of Commerce

Panel 2, entitled "Commercial", included the following panelists:

- Allen Herbert, PHEZU/JUXTOPIA
- Alex Askew, Askew Energy
- Patti Grace Smith, Patti Grace Smith Consulting
- John Gedmark, Commercial Spaceflight Federation

The forum was held on Wednesday, September 15, 3-5 pm in room 2318 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

Twitter Notes

The notes below were tweeted from CSWIKI on September 15, 2010, and appear in reverse chronological order. Read them starting with the last entry (#56) and continue backward to entry #1.

Some editing of the original tweets has been performed for the sake of clarity.

1. # Marsha Fudge was the first congress woman that spoke.

2. Reception starting now. This portion of the program now finished.
3. JD: a lot of space products have terrestrial markets first.
4. Last "question": what is comm'l involvement in IC space? PGS: between IC and Military communications are 2 great areas of opportunity.
5. Audience talking about digital divide impeding connections of students with opportunities. No real questions being asked
6. Speakers are giving background statements. Q&A next.
7. AH: was an aerospace engineer but wanted to be an entrepreneur. Working directly with African countries' space activities.
8. In Feb 2008 she left to build her own biz. It allowed her to draw on her career experiences.
9. She's an entrepreneur at heart. Leading the FAA was the most exciting job she's ever had because it was creating an important future.
10. PGS: for her 11 yrs at the FAA there weren't a lot of people of color, but she's excited about the progress she's seen.
11. JG: CSF represents about 40 companies now across all industry sectors.
12. Military will really start focusing on green fuels. Being in NE North Carolina.
13. AA: working to create jobs in biofuels and bio av fuel.
14. JD/AH: we collaborate with HBCUs on the Google Lunar X PRIZE team.
15. Panel 2 now. Jayfus Doswell & Allen Herbert (GLXP JURBAN team), Alex Askew (Askew eng), Patti Grace Smith (ind), John Gedmark (CSF).
16. NC: plugging the CRASTE conference at NASA ARC.
17. GN: space is of interest around the world. US is world leaders in emerging comm'l space. US can lead the world.
18. Q: how does comm'l industry look at outreach to tribal community, and outside of the US? TG: private sector needs to do more outreach.
19. Q: what is the govt doing to reach out to students? NC: NASA has a robust STEM outreach program. Stay tuned to nasa.gov!
20. NC: NASA has a lot of opportunities.
21. Q: Mech Eng student from Howard University. A: TG: Sen. Nelson's bill would cover training opportunities for you.
22. Q: what type of menu is planned for VG customers? GW: haven't really focused on that yet.
23. VG is looking at green av fuels for White Knight 2.
24. GN: FAA regulates comm'l sector space. Part of licensing process is an environmental review.

25. Vehicle is light, uses less fuel. Propellants relatively green, burn time relatively short.
26. GW: 5 ships, many flights per week. Hundreds of flights per year. High flight rates. VG concerned about env impact.
27. Q&A: how many trips are possible? Who is insuring? Who is environmental regulator?
28. Emerging industries. Will require many folks.
29. New opportunities opening every day. NM selected as leader of a team of universities. \$10M over 10 years.
30. Entrepreneurship is about creating new markets. Comm'l space is ripe for entrepreneurship.
31. Quoting Drucker. Entrepreneur is someone who starts their own biz, but not all new businesses are not entrepreneurial.
32. Dr. Nield next. Good news about comm'l space. Timing is right for biz of space. Giving overview of FAA AST. 202 FAA-licensed launches.
33. Allows for increased tax credits (from 20-30%), 50% depreciation, \$2K credit for training per participant.
34. Next is Treon Glenn. Sen. Nelson advancing a bill to create 5 enterprise zones to attract investments, be eligible for tax credits.
35. MBDA (minority business something Agency) has programs to help. Giving examples of success stories: Artel, Sierra Nevada Corp.
36. Mike next. Go to space.commerce.gov! New nat'l space policy talks a lot about comm'l space. How can govt help with minority involvement?
37. Early Stage, Game Changing, and demonstration technologies.
38. Nona up first. Office of Chief Technologist OCT is new office in NASA. Lots of opportunity to get involved with OCT, SBIR, NIAC, Centennial Challenges
39. OSC=Office of Space Commercialization.
40. First panel up now: Nona Cheeks (NASA GSFC), Treon Glenn (Sen. Nelson's office), George Nield (FAA AST), Mike Beavin (Dept of Commerce, OSC)
41. Talking about Guy Bluford (they went to the same high school). Can look for revenues from govt-sponsored research.
42. Congressman Chakah Fattah.
43. She is talking about Ron McNair's story, and about stimulating the youth regarding space.
44. Congresswoman Diane Watson is speaking now, from LA/Hollywood.
45. More members of Congress came in. (2 spoke before I started tweeting.)

46. Those we're tourism-oriented services. There will be science-related opportunities, too. Eng consulting and tech services, etc.
47. Guest group activities (family & friends), biz infrastructure, insurance services, event producers, media & broadcasting of fliers' stories.
48. Medical support & evaluation, fitness training, specifics of crew dynamics and trust building activities.
49. There will be opportunities for maintenance and operations contracts available. Guest services is another area of opp.
50. Other business opportunities, starting at prime contracting for vehicles. Sub contractors include consultative & simulation services.
51. There is a tremendous market of growth in space tourism, scientific expts, and other market segments.
52. Taking audience on 3-minute journey of the VG experience.
53. Talking about Virgin Galactic now. VG was founded on principle of opening space to more ppl.
54. There will be great job growth due to emerging comm'l space sectors.
55. OMG! I totally forgot I was supposed to be tweeting! George Whitesides is talking now.
56. @cswiki will be tweeting from the Congressional Black Caucus' Space Entrepreneurship Forum today starting at 3pm EDT. <http://bit.ly/b0lYpU>



L to R: Nona Cheeks (Head of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Innovative Partnerships Program), Dr. George Nield (Associate Administrator of the FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation), Mr. Treon Glenn (staffer to Sen. Bill Nelson), and Mr. George Whitesides (CEO of Virgin Galactic) answering questions at the Congressional Black Caucus' Space Entrepreneurship Forum "What Are The Opportunities For African Americans In The Government's New Space Initiatives?"