

**CONTACT:**

Claudia Devitt, Sr Manager, Marketing and Communications  
(321) 638-2000  
[CDevitt@SpaceCoastEDC.org](mailto:CDevitt@SpaceCoastEDC.org)

## **Senator Marco Rubio Talks Space Policy in Brevard**

*EDC and Space Florida Host Space Policy Roundtable Event*

**Brevard County, Fla** (August 19, 2016) – Earlier today, the Economic Development Commission (EDC) of Florida's Space Coast and Space Florida hosted Incumbent U.S. Senator Marco Rubio and aerospace industry leaders in a roundtable discussion on the critical role the United States and Florida play in space leadership.

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) stated, "While our nation's space policy has changed significantly in recent years, Florida's Space Coast remains a crucial player in this rapidly evolving field. Leaders representing a number of aerospace companies promoted the significant role Brevard County plays in critical aerospace programs and how they impact the nation and world.

"As the business of space in Brevard County has moved far beyond the launch function, it is important we engage our elected officials so they hear directly from industry leaders about the breadth of opportunities the modern space model brings to Brevard County," stated Lynda Weatherman, president and CEO of the EDC of Florida's Space Coast.

"Space Florida is pleased to host Senator Marco Rubio for conversations regarding our rapidly-expanding aerospace industry in Florida and in Brevard County," said Frank DiBello, president and CEO of Space Florida. "These discussions of issues the industry faces, and interest from state and federal elected officials continue to bring awareness to Florida's growing role and leadership in civil, commercial and military aerospace activity. Cape Canaveral Spaceport is today the busiest spaceport in the world, and our vision for its future is to be the world's leader in global space commerce."

With the diversification of the aerospace industry over the last decade, not only can companies launch rockets from the Space Coast, now they can also perform engineering, manufacturing, assembly, testing, and landing of their spacecraft all from the same convenient location.