

STARGATE COMMERCIALIZATION REPORT.

STARGATE, a program created at the Center for Advanced Radio Astronomy (CARA), serves as the UTRGV research arm that addresses the challenge of creating a focused NewSpace technology entrepreneurial ecosystem in South Texas. STARGATE develops and shapes technology to fit the needs of space exploration and spaceports, as well as, trains a highly skilled workforce to promote and support the technology commercialization efforts in the region. In order to foster technology innovation, STARGATE scientists and students follow a multidisciplinary approach where entrepreneurial training and experiences are nurtured.

One goal of STARGATE is to encourage and accelerate the commercialization of NewSpace technologies that are likely to derive from the research of this program. Taking advantage of conditions created by the emerging SpaceX Spaceport in Boca Chica, STARGATE scientists and staff envisioned, designed and are building the foundation stage for a NewSpace economy in South Texas where research and innovation generate startups, come together with existing industry, and will expand new businesses.

This mid-term report presents a summary overview of the success stories that are making a difference and demonstrate the impact of STARGATE's mission.

Resources for the entrepreneur

Office of Technology Transfer

STARGATE helped create and continues to support UTRGV's office of technology transfer (OTT). The new office provides intellectual property and licensing guidance and services in and to UTRGV researchers and students, as well as, for local companies to create their own products and services.

STARGATE works with OTT to better understand, facilitate, and enhance the interaction of faculty, staff, students, research, and the NewSpace tech industry.

STARGATE Launch Pad

In January of 2017, the STARGATE LAUNCH PAD (STLP) was officially created. STLP is an initiative of Dr. Fredrick A Jenet, director of CARA to bring together investors, entrepreneurs, mentors and campus affiliated research and startup teams.

The creation of STLP immediately spurred NewSpace entrepreneurial activity in South Texas. To date, there are 3 companies incubated in the STLP: Blue Box, Pterosails, and Sky Global. All of them, new Texas companies seeking mentorship and guidance to turn viable ideas into successful businesses. STARGATE's STLP launching director is Linda Uffland. CARA founder, Dr Jenet believes that this program, in collaboration with OTT, will accelerate the licensing of many of STARGATE and UTRGV inventions to new or established businesses in the region.

Commercialization results at a glance:

Numbers

One startup company has been formed.

3 companies are in the STLP.

There are 2 contracts in place to license STARGATE technology and 3 companies are using STARGATE technology.

Strong, firm foundation for NS technology-intensive development

Strategic Alliances

Strategic alliances continue to be key elements in the development of all commercialization efforts at STARGATE. We continue to strengthen the ties with Silicon Valley Space Center, the Houston Spaceport, and the Houston Technology Center, federal agencies such as the Department of Commerce, Economic Development Agency, NASA, and Defense Innovation Unit Experimental (DoD-DIUx).

Relevant to the goals of developing NS tech is our membership in the Global Spaceports Alliance (GSA). Our aim is to provide sound advice for the global agenda and to strengthen GSA's role in the future of NS.

Blue Energy

This year STARGATE embraced Blue Energy technologies for space ports to encourage multidisciplinary collaboration among faculty, students, researchers and future entrepreneurs. The purpose here is to leverage all STARGATE and UTRGV's strengths and resources to create new, solid, and environmentally friendly technologies that expand business opportunities.

STARGATE Talks

STARGATE Talks brings together UTRGV faculty and students, the business community, and the Independent Schools Districts in a education mechanism addressing the latest of technology innovations, challenges, and strategies in NewSpace industry. STARGATE Talks is also a platform to inform the public of the ongoing research and development in STARGATE. 2017 STARGATE Talks speaker was Dr Barnard Harris, an astronaut, renown scientist and entrepreneur with focus of the future of space exploration and the relevance of education for success.

STARGATE BUILDING

The STARGATE building is expected to be completed this year. It is equipped with shared work space, incubation space, and private office space. It will bring together UTRGV students and faculty with investors, entrepreneurs, mentors, industry leaders and advocates. The environment created within the STARGATE facilities will enable students, faculty, and community partnerships to develop more products, services, and economic growth that will also generate high-value and high-wage jobs in the future.