



The 2026 Tech Workshop combines presentations, networking opportunities, and discussions on the latest innovations and challenges facing optical manufacturers. As a highlight of the workshop, attendees enjoy an exclusive tour of NASA's Kennedy Space Center, offering a firsthand look at one of the world's most iconic centers for science, engineering, and space exploration.

LOCATION

Beachside Hotel & Suites–Cocoa Beach | 3901 N. Atlantic Ave. | Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Mon. Oct. 26 Welcome Reception Evening <i>Pool & Lounge Area</i> 	Tues. Oct. 27 Day 1–Talks 9:00AM– 4:00 PM <i>Conference Level</i> 	Wed. Oct. 28 Day 2–Talks 9:00AM– 4:00 PM <i>Conference Level</i> 	Thurs. Oct. 29 VIP Tour 8:30AM- 2:30PM <i>Kennedy Space Center</i> <i>Includes transportation, guided site tour, and an astronaut presentation</i>
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DAY 1

Opening Remarks

Timothy Kennedy & Yvette Pagano

Trizact – Fixed Abrasive Lapping

Justin Mahanna – Universal Photonics

Recent Upgrades on X-ray Optics & Metrology

Mourad Idir, PhD. – Brookhaven National Lab

Ultra-Stable, Affordable Mirrors (USAM)

Dan Willistein – EvolvOptic

Process Methods to Improve Freeform Optics Quality & Fabrication Efficiency, Sub-Surface Mechanical Damage in Fused Silica Grinding (With & Without Ultrasonics)

Tayyab Suratwala, PhD – Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Owning Your Data: RAG & Agentic AI Stack

Kenny Rains – ProtoForge Labs

Choosing the Right Polish for CaF_2

Caroline Wattinez – Pureon

Well Ground Is Half Polished – Process Improvements for Space Optics

Frank Nürnberg, PhD – OptoTech

Laser Welding of Glass for Lightweight Mirrors

Stuart Gray, PhD – Corning

Large-Aperture Diffractive Lenses for MWIR/LWIR Imaging

Alexander Ingold – Oblate Optics

Beyond Compliance: Using ISO 9001 as a Competitive Strategy in Optics Manufacturing

Kelley Platts – North American Coating Labs

Happy Hour — Sponsored by Bond Optics

Tentative Agenda, subject to change



DAY 2

Opening Remarks

Timothy Kennedy & Yvette Pagano

Choosing the Right Polishing Pad

William Gemmill – Pureon

Advances in Automated Surface Quality Inspection of Modern Space Optics

Kaitlin Dunn – DIOPTIC

CGH-Based Alignment of Complex Optical Surfaces for Space Applications

Jean-Michel Asfour – DIOPTIC

The Satisloh Plasma Polisher – Rapid Surface Figuring for Space Optics

Jason Wickersham – Satisloh

Cold Blocking – Low-Stress Blocking Technique

Troy Alley – Universal Photonics

Understanding Color in Materials

Tayyab Suratwala, PhD – Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Space-qualified Enhanced Gold Optical Coating for 1550nm: Environmental Stability and Performance – Christopher Harrower, PhD – Omega Optical

Improving Yield Through Cleaning Process Control & Full-Surface Inspection

Tyler Wheeler – Ecoclean

ISO Standards for Precision Optics – Why & How

Jennifer Michels – OEOSC

X-Ray Mirror Fabrication Challenges & Solutions

David Mohring – OptiPro Systems

Precision Optics Challenges for New Commercial Space Companies

Edmund Optics

Workshop Closing Remarks

Tentative Agenda, subject to change



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

DAY 3

VIP Tour Agenda

TRANSPORTATION

A charter bus will transport all guests from the Beachside Hotel & Suites to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex and return guests at the conclusion of the event.



8:30AM—2:30PM

Due to the number of tour participants, attendees will be divided into two groups. Both groups will enjoy the same tour experience.

08:30 AM– Guest arrival at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex

09:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Group A

Bus Tour – Apollo/Saturn V Center, Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) stop, launch pad views, and Space Shuttle Atlantis

09:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Group B

Astronaut presentation & Q&A session (indoor meeting space)

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM – All guests reconvene for lunch (conference facility)

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Group A

Astronaut presentation & Q&A session (indoor meeting space)

12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Group B

Bus Tour – Apollo/Saturn V Center, Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) stop, launch pad views, and Space Shuttle Atlantis

2:30 PM – Event concludes – guests may explore the Visitor Complex on their own

Register today at APOMA.org