



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

Direct Radius of Curvature Measurements Using Spectrally Controlled Interferometry

Donald A. Pearson II – Apre Instruments

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

Kelley Plats – 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.

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



8:30AM—2:30PM

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