



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

5:00 – 7:00 PM

*Sponsored by
Titan International Inc.*

Pool & Lounge Area

Tues. Oct. 27
Day 1–Talks

8:30AM – 4:30 PM



Conference Level

Wed. Oct. 28
Day 2–Talks

8:30AM – 4:30 PM



Conference Level

Thurs. Oct. 29
VIP Tour

8:30AM - 2:30PM



Kennedy Space Center

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CORNING





DAY 1

8:30–8:40	Opening Remarks Timothy Kennedy & Yvette Pagano — APOMA
8:40–9:25	Recent Upgrades on X-ray Optics & Metrology Mourad Idir, PhD – Brookhaven National Lab
9:25–9:50	Development of Ultra-Stable, Affordable Mirrors (USAM) Ted Mooney, Phd – EvolvOptic
9:50–10:05	Morning Break
10:05–11:05	Freeform Optics Fabrication Tayyab Suratwala, PhD – Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
11:05–11:30	Well Ground Is Half Polished – Process Improvements for Astronomy and Space Optics Frank Nürnberg, PhD – OptoTech
11:30–12:30	Lunch — Sponsored by SPIE
12:30–1:15	Owning Your Data: A Locally Hosted RAG and Agentic AI Stack Kenny Rains – ProtoForge Labs
1:15–1:45	Choosing the Right Polish for CaF₂ Caroline Wattinez – Pureon
1:45–2:00	Laser Welding of Glass for Lightweight Mirrors Stuart Gray, PhD – Corning
2:00–2:25	Afternoon Break — Sponsored by OptiPro
2:25–3:00	Large-Aperture Diffractive Lenses for MWIR/LWIR Imaging Al Ingold – Oblate Optics
3:00–3:25	Direct Radius of Curvature Measurements Using Spectrally Controlled Interferometry Donald A. Pearson II – Apre Instruments
3:25–3:50	Beyond Compliance: Using ISO 9001 as a Competitive Strategy in Optics Manufacturing Kelley Plats – North American Coating Labs
5:00–6:30	Happy Hour — Sponsored by Bond Optics



DAY 2

8:30–8:40	Opening Remarks Timothy Kennedy & Yvette Pagano — APOMA
8:40–9:10	Choosing the Right Polishing Pad William Gemmill – Pureon
9:10–9:35	Advances in Automated Surface Quality Inspection of Modern Space Optics Kaitlin Dunn – DIOPTIC
9:35–10:00	CGH-Based Alignment of Complex Optical Surfaces for Space Applications Jean-Michel Asfour – DIOPTIC
10:00–10:15	Morning Break
10:15–10:45	The Satisloh Plasma Polisher — Rapid Surface Figuring for Space Optics Jason Wickersham – Satisloh
10:45–11:15	Cold Blocking – Low-Stress Blocking Technique Troy Alley – Universal Photonics
11:15–12:15	Understanding Color in Materials Tayyab Suratwala, PhD – Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
12:15–1:15	Lunch — Sponsored by AccuCoat
1:15–1:45	Space-qualified Enhanced Gold Optical Coating for 1550nm: Environmental Stability and Performance — Christopher Harrower, PhD – Omega Optical
1:45–2:15	Improving Yield Through Cleaning Process Control & Full-Surface Inspection Tyler Wheeler – Ecoclean
2:15–2:30	AmeriCOM workforce development tools – recruitment, education, and training Mike Pomerantz – AmeriCOM
2:30–2:45	ISO Standards for Precision Optics – Why & How Rick Plympton – OEOSC
2:45–3:00	Afternoon Break — Sponsored by Pureon
3:00–3:30	X-Ray Mirror Fabrication Challenges & Solutions David Mohring – OptiPro Systems
3:30–4:00	Precision Optics Challenges for New Commercial Space Companies Gregory Hollows – Edmund Optics
4:00–4:10	Workshop Closing Remarks Timothy Kennedy & Yvette Pagano — APOMA



VIP Tour Agenda

DAY 3

TRANSPORTATION

Charter buses 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.

Buses depart promptly at 8:00 AM. Guests may bring their luggage aboard buses to depart from Kennedy to the airport via rideshare.

Guests who prefer to drive themselves are welcome to do so; please let us know in advance and plan to arrive at the Visitor Complex at 8:30 am.



Transportation Sponsor

DEPARTURE – Please plan to be at the Beachside Hotel at 7:45 AM

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER EXPERIENCE

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



Tour Sponsor

8:30 AM– Guest arrival at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex

Group A

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

Group B

Presentation from astronaut Donald Thomas with Q&A session (indoor meeting space)

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

Group A

Presentation from astronaut Donald Thomas with Q&A session (indoor meeting space)

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

Buses depart Kennedy Space Center at 3:00 PM