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
Pool & Lounge Area

Tues. Oct. 27
Day 1–Talks
9:00AM– 4:00 PM
Conference Level

Wed. Oct. 28
Day 2–Talks
9:00AM– 4:00 PM
Conference Level

Thurs. Oct. 29
VIP Tour
8:30AM- 2:30PM
Kennedy Space Center
Includes transportation, guided site tour, and an astronaut presentation

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CORNING

DAY 1

8:30–8:40	**Opening Remarks** Timothy Kennedy & Yvette Pagano — APOMA
8:40–9:10	**Trizact – Fixed Abrasive Lapping** Justin Mahanna – Universal Photonics
9:10–9:55	**Recent Upgrades on X-ray Optics & Metrology** Mourad Idir, PhD. – Brookhaven National Lab
9:55–10:10	**Morning Break**
10:10–10:30	**Development of Ultra-Stable, Affordable Mirrors (USAM)** Dan Willistein – EvolvOptic
10:30–11:30	**Freeform Optics Fabrication** Tayyab Suratwala, PhD – Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
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 CaF_2** Caroline Wattinez – Pureon
1:45–2:10	**Afternoon Break** — Sponsored by OptiPro
2:10–2:25	**Well Ground Is Half Polished – Process Improvements for Astronomy and Space Optics** Frank Nürnberg, PhD – OptoTech
2:25–3:00	**Laser Welding of Glass for Lightweight Mirrors** Stuart Gray, PhD – Corning
3:00–3:25	**Large-Aperture Diffractive Lenses for MWIR/LWIR Imaging** Al Ingold – Oblate Optics
3:25–3:50	**Direct Radius of Curvature Measurements Using Spectrally Controlled Interferometry** Donald A. Pearson II – Apre Instruments
3:50–4:20	**Beyond Compliance: Using ISO 9001 as a Competitive Strategyin Optics Manufacturing** Kelley Plats – North American Coating Labs
4:20 onward	**Happy Hour** — Sponsored by Bond Optics

Agenda subject to change

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
9:10–9:55	**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
2:15–2:45	**ISO Standards for Precision Optics – Why & How** Jennifer Michels – 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** Edmund Optics
4:00–4:10	**Workshop Closing Remarks** Timothy Kennedy & Yvette Pagano — APOMA

Agenda subject to change

DAY 3

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

VIP Tour Agenda

Kennedy Space Center℠

8:30AM—2:30PM

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.

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