

**Minutes**  
**Alabama Space Authority**  
**Meeting**

**January 17, 2023**

Alabama State House – Montgomery, AL

**Call to Order:**

10:48 A.M.

**Welcome and Remarks**

Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth gave welcoming remarks.  
Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call**

Present: 8

Senator Steve Livingston, Chair

Mr. Kenneth W. Boswell

Dr. Charles Karr (joined virtually)

Dr. William T. Hutto

Dr. Daniel K. Wims

Mr. Greg Canfield

Mr. Frank Farmer (joined virtually)

Major General (Ret.) Tim Crosby (joined virtually)

Visitors: 16

Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth

Jennifer Lee

Shonda Gray

Dr. Kimberly Robinson

Dr. Brinda Mahalingam

Robert La Branche

Stephanie Bastiaans

Stacey DeFore

Joe Rice

Cameron Edwards

Shannon Reeves

Sam Givhan

Cole Wagner

Lucia Cape (joined virtually)

Robert Wright (joined virtually)

Mr. Steve Cook (joined virtually)

Mike Ward (joined virtually)

Sally Gray (joined virtually)

## **Minutes**

Motion to approve by Mr. Greg Canfield.

Seconded by Mr. Kenneth W. Boswell.

Vote called – Unanimous.

## **Reports and Presentations:**

**Presentation by Mr. Joe Rice, Director of State and Local Government Relations, Lockheed Martin Space.** Mr. Rice provided an update on Strengthening Alabama’s Critical Infrastructure Resiliency (SACIR). The goal of this program is to center Alabama as the go-to destination for cybersecurity businesses and workers. They have completed initial research and a workforce development study, interviewed forty (40) different stakeholders, and developed both workforce and technical recommendations for the bolstering of the cyber industry in Alabama. Through the workforce study, they identified opportunities to bolster jobs in cybersecurity and network reliance and provided the following eight workforce recommendations that would include partnerships across K-12 education, universities, state agencies, the Alabama National Guard, and private sector entities.

- Establish an Alabama National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (ACE)
- Establish an Alabama Cyber Corps
- Lead the founding of a national Artemis Academic Alliance (3A)
- Establish Security Clearance Workforce Incentive Programs
- Leverage cyber opportunities with the Alabama National Guard
- Expand Aerospace and Defense Industry Incentive and Partnership Programs
- Expand Aerospace and Defense Industry and Education Partnership Programs
- Partner with business organizations to expand Supplier and Student Outreach

The technical recommendation for Securing Alabama’s Future Network (SAFeNet) Pilot would be completed in partnership with Auburn University and other organizations to develop secure “Zero Trust” Networks. They recommend an initial investment of \$30 million for the workforce recommendations and an additional \$5 million for technical recommendations (SAFeNet Pilot). These initial investments would later be leveraged to obtain federal grants along with contracts and investments from the private sector. Auburn University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville both have existing programs in the cyber field.

The presentation is attached.

## **Presentation by Dr. Brinda Mahalingam, University of Alabama in Huntsville.**

Dr. Mahalingam provided an overview of the economic impact of the aerospace sector in Alabama. This overview was a part of a larger study of the statewide economic impact of the military on the state in partnership with the Alabama Military Stability Foundation. The study uses data from 2019 due to the full availability of the data. The impact of the aerospace sector is representative of the sector annually, not only in the data year. The total economic impact of the aerospace industry in the state of Alabama is \$3.6 billion with a total employment of 11,255 jobs. Most of the contracts are performed in the Redstone Arsenal region. The findings show the total impact on employment to be 5% of the average annual employment of all industries.

Alabama ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in employment level and 1<sup>st</sup> in highest concentration of jobs and location quotients for aerospace engineers. Aerospace industry employment leads to growth in guided missile and space vehicle manufacturing, aircraft manufacturing and parts for space vehicle and missile manufacturing. In summary, the aerospace sector, including aviation manufacturing and service, accounts for 7.5% of Alabama's gross domestic product.

The presentation is attached.

**Question:** Mr. Boswell asked if this study includes the Department of Defense or just aerospace in general.

**Response:** Dr. Mahalingam stated the study just includes the aerospace industry and not Department of Defense (DoD), but the DoD funds a lot of the aerospace industry. Mr. La Branche clarified that the overlap between the DoD and the aerospace industry was one of the challenges of the study. He stated that direct DoD spending does not show up in the study, but contracts do.

**Question:** Mr. Canfield asked if this was inclusive of Defense (federal) and commercial aerospace.

**Response:** Dr. Mahalingam responded that DoD gives a lot of contracts to the aerospace industry.

Mr. Canfield commented that regarding the multiplier impact, it would be interesting to see the indirect effect because it is an indication of the supply chain.

**Question:** Mr. Canfield asked if the information on the location quotient is statewide or primarily for north Alabama.

**Response:** Dr. Mahalingam responded that it is statewide.

**Presentation by Dr. Kimberly Robinson, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center (USSRC).** Dr. Robinson discussed the success of the Artemis launch and the role of USSRC in that launch. The USSRC partnered with local entities to host Artemis Launch Parties to engage the community in the launch. These launch parties were featured in the NASA live stream of the launch.

**New Business:**

New officers will be elected at the next meeting.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Day is April 5.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in Montgomery on April 5, 2023, NASA Day.

**Adjourn**

11:36 A.M.