



Sign up for the 2021 Virtual Spaceport America Cup

April 19, 2021, Sierra County, NM- Tickets are now on sale for the 2021 Virtual Spaceport America Cup

<https://www.accelevents.com/e/2021VirtualSpaceportAmericaCup>.

This special online event, aimed at college-level students, marks the culmination of this year's academic competition and will offer university teams the chance to present their rocket designs. Tickets are priced at \$30 for general admission, \$15 for students and \$125 for a team of up to 10 people. The deadline for officially entering the competition is May 14, the same day that technical papers are due.



During the three-day event student teams from across the globe will compete to win technical awards with one team selected to win the overall 2021 Virtual Spaceport America Cup award. In addition, teams will present interactive poster session reviews, and participate in technical forums on a variety of topics. Guest

speakers include former NASA Astronaut Mike Mullane and Wayne Monteith, FAA Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation. The virtual event also provides industry sponsors the opportunity to interact with students for recruitment.

“The Spaceport America Cup provides an incredible opportunity for students to showcase their work and make connections with other teams across the globe” said Spaceport America Executive Director Scott McLaughlin. “This event also provides recruitment and networking opportunities with aerospace industry professionals and companies. We’re looking forward to seeing what the students present this year.”

The 2021 Virtual Spaceport America Cup is sponsored by Virgin Galactic, AIAA, Blue Origin, Kansas City National Security Campus and Kron Technologies. With additional support by Space Dynamics Laboratory, Aerojet Rocketdyne, Estes Rockets and Solidworks, Raytheon Technologies, and Siemens.

The Spaceport America Cup is the world’s largest intercollegiate rocketry engineering contest (IREC) and has been held in New Mexico since 2017. Over 1,700 students and faculty come to Southern New Mexico for the annual IREC competition. Drawn by the opportunity to collaborate and compete at a world-class spaceport facility, they represent the best and brightest from more than 150 institutions located across the world.

The annual Spaceport America Cup was canceled in 2020 due to the global pandemic and the decision to make the event virtual for 2021 was made to accommodate the restrictions many teams are facing across the globe.

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Spaceport America (<https://www.spaceportamerica.com>) is the first purpose-built commercial spaceport in the world. The FAA-licensed launch complex, situated on 18,000 acres adjacent to the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico, has a rocket friendly environment of 6,000 square miles of restricted airspace, low population density, a 12,000-foot by 200-foot runway, vertical launch complexes, and about 340 days of sunshine and low humidity.

Some of the most respected companies in the commercial space industry are tenants at Spaceport America: [Virgin Galactic](#), [HAPSMobile/ AeroVironment](#), [UP Aerospace](#), and [SpinLaunch](#). Other customers include [Boeing](#), [EXOS Aerospace](#) and [Swift Engineering](#).

EXPERIMENTAL SOUNDING ROCKET ASSOCIATION

The Experimental Sounding Rocket Association (ESRA) is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 for the purpose of fostering and promoting engineering knowledge and experience in the field of rocketry. ESRA's primary focus is providing safe and exciting opportunities for academic groups to compete in aerospace challenges. ESRA has operated the Intercollegiate Rocket Engineering Competition (IREC) since 2006. In 2017, ESRA partnered with Spaceport America to expand the IREC into the Spaceport America Cup. Visit <http://www.soundingrocket.org> for more information.

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