

What is a SPACEPORT?



Space begins at SPACEPORTS!

The global space market is booming, reaching \$630 billion and projected to hit \$1.8 trillion by 2035, according to a report by McKinsey and the World Economic Forum. Spaceports are economic powerhouses that can help a regional economy tap into this expanding market.

A spaceport is a facility where space-related activities take place. It is similar to an airport, but it is intended for the operation of rockets and spaceplanes and other space-related activities.

A spaceport could include, but not limited to, areas for:

- Launches and landings of spacecraft (vertical or horizontal launches and reentries). This includes rockets, spaceplane, rockets mounted to airplanes, unmanned space planes and fliers, stratospheric balloons and other craft and that moves from point-to-point using the Earth's orbit, and more.
- Manufacturing of space-related items, assembling or repairing spacecraft and space cargo, and other space-related services
- Flight and mission control operations and monitoring of space activity (environment, imaging, satellites, etc.)
- Training astronauts and testing equipment
- Education - K-12, college, and university programs
- ...and so much more!



International Rocket Engineering Competition (IREC) held at spaceports each year. IREC is the largest collegiate rocketry competition in the world, showcasing 7,339 competitors who make up 172 teams from 22 countries and 6 continents.



Houston Spaceport Credit: Intuitive Machines



Spaceport America Credit: Virgin Galactic

Why Do Spaceports Matter?

Spaceports can be hubs for:

- **Innovation:** Research, development, and testing of spacecraft and new technologies.
- **Education:** Schools, workshops, and training programs to build a space workforce.
- **Economic Growth:** New businesses, jobs, and industries like tourism and advanced manufacturing.

Key Features of a Spaceport:

- **Launch Operations:** Handles spacecraft launches, including satellites and crewed missions. This can also include space asset monitoring and ground stations.
- **Aerospace Activities:** Works with hypersonic vehicles, high-altitude aircraft, and unmanned aerial systems.
- **Research & Development (R&D):** Facilities for testing engines, spacecraft, and data centers for space and planetary studies.
- **Manufacturing:** Areas for building and assembling spacecraft and related equipment.
- **Education & Workforce Development:** Training schools and events to inspire and educate future space workers.
- **New Business Opportunities:** Space tourism, astronaut training, and commercial programs.

How Spaceports Shape the Future:

- Inspire innovation and exploration.
- Foster education and workforce development.
- Support industries like tourism, manufacturing, and research.
- Build connections between communities and space.

Spaceports are not just launch sites; they are the foundation for a thriving space economy and a gateway to the future of exploration.



Spaceport Japan Concept



Education Program at Spaceport Cornwall

What is a SPACEPORT?

Imagine Your Local Spaceport!

In the square below, draw what you think a spaceport in your community might look like.

What kinds of services would it provide?

Would it launch rockets? Help satellites? Train astronauts?

Be creative and show us how your spaceport would connect Earth to space!

A large, empty square box with a thin black border, intended for a drawing of a local spaceport.