



# THE INNOVATION CATALYST

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS OFFICE  
NEWSLETTER  
NOVEMBER 2019

## SPO Welcomes New Deputy Chief Kerry Leonard

Since arriving at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in 2018 as a technology manager, Kerry Leonard has immersed herself in the world of NASA technologies. As it turns out, Leonard's NASA aspirations started early – when she was only 18 months old, she visited NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.



"I remember being so excited to visit KSC because I couldn't wait to see a launch in person. I thought they launched rockets at Cape Canaveral every day, just like they have parades every day at Disney World," she says, describing how she never forgot her experience seeing the model rockets and astronaut suits at the visitor center.

As the new deputy chief of the Strategic Partnerships Office at Goddard, Leonard will help direct technology transfer and partnerships for the center, undertaking NASA's mission to transfer new technologies to the private

sector for public benefit.

Leonard has a BSE in chemical engineering, as well as a JD/MBA. Leonard is also a registered patent attorney and spent years in private law practice, specializing in patent prosecution for mechanical, electrical, and biomedical technologies. Prior to joining NASA, she worked at the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA)



as a technology transfer specialist. Before going to law school, she worked as a patent examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

"As NASA's largest science-focused center, Goddard has a lot to offer in terms of what we can share with industry," Leonard says. "There is so much potential in Goddard's people and technologies, and I greatly look forward to helping further NASA's mission in partnership with them."

**Get in touch with Kerry Leonard at [kerry.w.leonard@nasa.gov](mailto:kerry.w.leonard@nasa.gov).**

## Conrad Challenge: Call For Judges!

The 2019-2020 Conrad Challenge is kicking off, and the challenge organizers encourage members of the Goddard community to serve as online judges. The challenge is run by the Conrad Foundation, an organization dedicated to science and technology education. In a multiphase process, middle and high school students are challenged to make the world a better place by creating new products

or services. Students gain opportunities to hone their entrepreneurial and technical skills through this endeavor. The judging period begins January 18, 2020, and ends February 7, 2020.

**For more information and to register, [visit the challenge's website.](#)**

# Recent SPO Activities

## OPTICS WEBINAR

SPO worked with Tech Briefs to host an optics webinar on Sept. 18. The webinar featured Goddard innovator Mark Stephen, who spoke about advances in photonics for space and commercial applications. He highlighted NASA's work with photonic integrated circuits, which enable critical improvements to microprocessors, communication buses, science instrument optical systems, and other technologies. [The webinar is available for download](#) until September 2020.

## INDUSTRY DAY

On Sept. 18, SPO participated in the Satellite Servicing Projects Division's Industry Day, hosted at Goddard's Greenbelt campus. The meeting invited domestic companies to learn more about a broad span of topics, including on-orbit servicing, assembly, and manufacturing. SPO participated in a panel about technology transfer and partnering opportunities available in relation to Goddard's servicing technologies and development.

## MAKERSPACE

On Oct. 9, a SPO staff member gave a presentation in Reston, Virginia, at Nova Labs, the largest makerspace in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area. The presentation focused on technology transfer and partnership opportunities with NASA. The attendees were mostly small business owners from communities in Virginia and DC.



SPO participated in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) Entrepreneur Expo on Oct. 29 in College Park, Maryland. Startups and tech companies in attendance networked with representatives from federal labs.

## Upcoming Events for Innovators

### New Technology Awards Program

February 26, 2020

Celebrate Goddard's technology transfer achievements with fellow innovators.

### SPO Speaker Series

Coming Soon!

Check Dateline for announcement. Guest speakers share their insights on topics related to technology transfer.

# Technology Transfer Trivia

- 1 In FY 2019, how many patents were granted to Goddard technologies?  
A. 21 B. 31 C. 41 D. 51
- 2 Which Goddard innovator received the 2018 James Kerley Award for excellence in technology transfer?  
A. Keith Gendreau B. Geoff Bland C. Nithin Abraham D. Mike Krainak
- 3 What federal institution collaborated with Goddard in 1982 to preserve thousands of aged books using Goddard's thermal vacuum chamber?  
A. Smithsonian Institution B. Library of Congress  
C. National Archives D. National Agricultural Library

[Link To Answers](#)