

BUSINESS INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)

Encouragement of Government Purchasing from Commercial Providers: Models and Examples (1)

Author: Mr. Michael Gold

Bigelow Aerospace, United States, mgold@bigelowaerospace.com

EXPANDING THE FINAL FRONTIER: THE BIGELOW AEROSPACE STORY AND THE PROMISE
OF INNOVATIVE PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATIONS FOR SPACE EXPLORATION AND
COMMERCIAL UTILIZATION

Abstract

This paper and presentation will begin by telling the Bigelow Aerospace story. Specifically, the evolution of expandable habitat technology from conception at NASA to implementation by the private sector will be described.

Next, the creation and operations of Bigelow Aerospace will be explored, including a description of the successful Genesis missions and current programs.

Finally, the paper/presentation will end by describing the crew transportation dilemma that Bigelow Aerospace faces, and how programs like the Commercial Crew Development Program hold the promise to create a new era of affordable, reliable human space launch satisfying both NASA's and the private sector's needs.