



PRESS RELEASE

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ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA LAUDS APPOINTMENT OF FRANK DIBELLO AS PRESIDENT OF SPACE FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE – Leaders of Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) today commended Space Florida’s board for appointing Frank DiBello as the permanent president of the Space Florida program. DiBello, a well-regarded Florida space consultant, has been serving as the interim president since Steve Kohler’s May resignation.

AIF has been on the leading edge of advocacy for Florida's space industry at both the state and national levels. For the last several years, space issues have been included in the association's annual "Session Priorities" publication and were an important part of the groundbreaking Economic Stimulus Package (ESP) and ESP 2.0 proposals presented during the 2008 and 2009 legislative sessions.

“As champions for the space industry in Florida, we have stood in support of Frank DiBello since he was named interim president and couldn’t be more pleased with his appointment. His work ethic combined with his industry experience is important to the growth and development of Space Florida,” said Barney T. Bishop III, President and CEO of AIF. “Space Florida Chair Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp has worked to ensure that the leadership of Space Florida is solid and attuned with the industry, and we thank him and the full board for appointing a true leader to oversee this important program.”

DiBello has more than four decades of industry experience, including insight into and knowledge of the financial sector of the program. Additionally, his experience with Florida politics, as well as the major industrial players at the Cape, are critical to guaranteeing Space Florida continues to progress while securing further support from the Florida Legislature.

“Space Florida’s number one objective is to present a new strategic vision to the Legislature, which includes recognition of the challenge presented by Virginia in trying to become the 21st century capital of manned space flight. The second objective is to preserve as many space-related jobs as possible,” continued Bishop. “DiBello has worked in the past as a consultant to the Economic Development Commission of the Space Coast to help save as many jobs as possible, and as the newly appointed president, we support him and look forward to seeing him continue to succeed in this important leadership role.”

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