



BUSINESS — to — BUSINESS

BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of THE DAILY NEWS through this monthly supplement.

BAHEP Kicks Off 50th Anniversary and Announces 2026 Board of Directors

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Since being incorporated on Dec. 16, 1976, as the Clear Lake Area Economic Development Foundation (CLAEDF), the organization has enjoyed a rich history of attracting new companies to the region and bringing new employment oppor-

tunities to residents. After 27 years, the organization was officially rebranded as The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership on May 16, 2003.

BAHEP has always been a member-driven organization dedicated to stimulating regional economic development and employment in Southeast Texas. Today, BAHEP works

with over 360 member companies, local governments, and educational institutions to attract, retain, and expand industry in the region. Its members include business partners from the region's 5 major industry clusters: Aerospace, Specialty Chemical, Healthcare, Hotel/ Tourism, and Maritime, encompassing 18 cities located in Galveston County and Harris County.

annually elect a 13-member Executive Committee, comprised of four officers, nine other members and one Board Chair. In addition, there are 13 ex officio members of the board and seven ex officio members of the Executive Committee.

Nellie Chappell-White, the President and CEO of JES Tech, is leading the organization this year as the 2026 Board Chair. Serving alongside her is Dick H. Gregg, Jr., Attorney-at-Law/President of Gregg & Gregg, P.C. as Vice Chair and Laurie Labra, Vice President of the Human Space Exploration Division at KBR as Secretary. Jennifer Bowers, Partner at Bowers & Sadler, LLP will serve as Treasurer.



2026 BAHEP Board Chair—Nellie Chappell-White.



The 50th anniversary logo for the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.



2025 Board of Directors with U.S. Senator Ted Cruz at BAHEP's September General Membership Meeting.

Recently, the organization announced the 2026 Board of Directors. BAHEP's direction and governance are guided by this board of up to 48 lead members, who are nominated and elected by members to serve up to two consecutive, three-year terms. To assure operational timeliness and efficiency, BAHEP's directors

Finnish Delegates Visit BAHEP Headquarters

Through its extensive initiatives to promote and grow the region's diversified economy, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership has become the leading organization in the region for hosting international delegations.

These delegations typically consist of representatives from a foreign country's aerospace ecosystem, government, and academia along with local representatives from US companies in our region.

The final delegation BAHEP hosted in 2025 was a high-level delegation from Finland's leading technology and industrial companies. The discussions focused on transatlantic collaboration in aerospace, defense, and digital innovation, as well as to share best practices, explore partnership opportunities, and strengthen U.S.

—Finnish business ties. Finnish companies in attendance included Patria Oyj, ICEYE Oy, Sensofusion Oy, Insta Group Oy, Kuva Space Oy, Fastems Oy, Unieke Oy, Hiab, IQM Quantum Computers, Vaisala Oyj, and VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland.



Each BAHEP member in attendance presented a short overview of their company.



The delegates from Finland and BAHEP members gather in the BAHEP conference room for the discussion.



All of the attendees at the Finnish delegation luncheon including BAHEP members and staff.



BAHEP members and Finnish delegates mingling in the lobby after the luncheon.

BUSINESS to BUSINESS is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with THE DAILY NEWS. BAHEP is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeastern Texas. Its members include more than 360 business partners encompassing 18 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, the Houston Airport System, and Port Houston.

For membership information, contact Membership Director Harriet Pilgrim at 832.536.3250.

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Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program Finishes Up Fall Semester with Award Winners

The Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program (SATOP), administered through the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, is a state-funded program that supports product development by connecting innovative small businesses in Texas to engineering assistance. Through SATOP's University Capstone Design Program, college senior engineering student teams'

partner with SATOP requestors to provide two semesters of technical assistance on a proposed project. SATOP's university partners include Houston Christian University, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University – College Station and Galveston campus, Texas State University, University of Houston – Clear Lake, and the University of

Texas at Tyler.

Recently, Texas A&M University recognized two SATOP-sponsored projects during their 2025 Engineering Fall Virtual Project Showcase, this past December.

The SONAR and LiDAR Integration for Maritime Security project won 3rd Place Overall. Requested by MerLion Advisory Group, LLC, the students on this project worked to integrate SONAR and LiDAR data with an Argus uncrewed service vessel (USV) to enhance maritime security, safeguard ports, and promote secure trade.

The Climate-Controlled Suit project was awarded 2nd Place in Mechanical Engineering and is intended to support outdoor construction workers in ex-



3rd Place Overall Winners—SONAR and LiDAR Integration for Maritime Security—ISEN department at the Texas A&M Engineering Fall 2025 Showcase.



2nd Place in Mechanical Engineering—Climate-Controlled Suit at the Texas A&M Engineering Fall 2025 Showcase.

treme heat by integrating air conditioning into a body suit. The student team produced a full-scale prototype and performed validation testing.

project work for another semester. SATOP greatly appreciates all its university partners and recognizes the incredible impact they make on the students and small businesses across the state.

SATOP's University Capstone Design Program is gearing up across the state for the spring semester as more student projects will begin to kick off and some will continue their