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CONTACT:

Melissa Medley, Executive Director
The Aerospace Alliance
850.558.6909, mmedley@aerospacealliance.com

**INNOVATION, INSPIRATION AND EXPLORATION TO DRIVE TOMORROW'S
AEROSPACE INDUSTRY**

Industry leaders to tackle tough topics at the 2017 Aerospace Alliance Annual Summit

Today, the four-state Aerospace Alliance announced the association's annual summit will be held on October 12 and 13 at the Marriott Renaissance Arts New Orleans Hotel. The annual summit is known for insightful and energetic discussions from industry leaders on subjects shaping aerospace today and this year's summit will be just as exciting with leaders discussing current and imminent changes across all aspects of the industry. Hosted by the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Florida, the annual summit features presentations and discussions centered on subjects shaping aerospace today and tomorrow.

"With advancements in technology happening at an unprecedented speed, the four states of the Alliance must stay abreast of potential disruptors while utilizing our region's assets to keep pace in the global economy," said Neal Wade, who serves as chairman of the Aerospace Alliance. "The Annual Summit brings together state leaders with industry executives to debate, analyze and learn how the states can continue to be competitive in this dynamic industry."

With innovation driving industry change and growth, the aerospace industry of today will look extraordinarily different tomorrow. Advances in aircraft design; the Mission to Mars; private sector space initiatives, and technological innovations impacting all aspects of engineering, manufacturing, navigation and the human experience of flight will extend our knowledge and reshape the industry.

To tackle these pressing issues, this year's line-up of speakers at the summit features nationally known leaders from companies and organizations such as Boeing, NASA, the Aerospace Industries Association as well as additional keynotes and panels addressing industry-specific topics.

"We are excited to host the Aerospace Alliance Annual Summit in New Orleans this year," said Secretary of Commerce and head of Louisiana Economic Development Don Pierson. "Our state has a rich history of excellence in aviation and aerospace as home to companies such as Bell Helicopter, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman and Louisiana serves as the perfect backdrop for a summit that focuses on regional and industry partnerships."

The Aerospace Alliance's mission is to establish the Southeast region as a world-class aerospace and aviation corridor and hosting the annual summit continues to position the states as premier destinations for the industry. The Southeast United States has long been home to some of the world's most advanced aviation manufacturing companies, industry suppliers as well as research

and development institutions. Numerous installations critical to the Department of Defense and NASA offer government expertise and provide a business ecosystem that supports private-sector business partnerships as well as entrepreneurial opportunities. But beyond governments, organizations and companies, the region serves as an epicenter of innovation, exploration and discovery.

For more information about the Summit, call 850.558.6909 or email mmedley@aerospacealliance.com. To register visit <https://aerospace-alliance.myshopify.com>.

Sponsors of this year's summit include presenting sponsors Boeing, Space Florida, and Florida Power and Light along with platinum sponsors NASA Michoud Assembly Facility and Leonardo DRS. Mississippi Gulf Coast Alliance also sponsors the event.

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About The Aerospace Alliance: The four state Aerospace Alliance was formed to establish the U.S. Southeast region as a world-class aerospace and aviation corridor. The Alliance member states of Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana share goals of promoting the region's common assets and leveraging opportunities to grow the sector in the region. For more information, visit www.aerospacealliance.com