

## Space Manufacturing Facility Planned at L4

Foundation Society President Edwards Smith announced today that the organization will solicit proposals to build the first large manufacturing facility in space. Smith said “the time has come. We know what we can make profitably from lunar and asteroid materials, we are mining and transporting those materials, and we are ready to expand the human economy into space in a big way.” Partner companies in the Space Enterprise Applications Consortium (SEAC) will all have some involvement with the project, although only one company will be selected as prime contractor.

Engineer Tom Yubickovich said that research at several bases on the moon has identified a wide variety of products suitable for large-scale manufacturing in space, and more new products are being developed. “A few high-value products that can only be made in space will be exported to Earth”, said Yubickovich. “Many products made at this facility will be everyday consumer products that we want to source locally for people living in space, instead of shipping commodities from Earth. We will also refine metals to be used for building ships that will travel between orbital destinations or land on the moon, asteroids, and eventually other planets.”

Analyst Gale Uttamchandani said that this new settlement will be like an industrial town in the American Rust Belt. “It’s Gary, Indiana, in orbit. We expect the people who choose to live there will want to focus on hard work and high productivity. We also expect that these hardworking people will want to play hard, too. It will be both a challenging and fulfilling place to live.”

Selenologist Peter Lee said that some basic necessities for living in space can be provided from lunar materials. “Air and water are being produced at our lunar facilities, and can be shipped from there. Agricultural products are being grown both on the moon and at our Alexandriat space settlement. So we can give this new settlement a little bit of a head start to get going.” Yubickovich agreed, saying “space is pretty much still not friendly for humans, and doing human activities in

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space is hard. We found in development of our lunar research bases that providing basic commodities through separate contracts was very helpful, so we will continue that practice to help the contractor for this project.”

Although the new space settlement is intended to establish large-scale manufacturing capability in space, it will also offer opportunities to conduct research about living in space for long periods of time. Smith said “the goal is to enable people to enjoy long healthy lives off of Earth. Even after years of experience with artificial gravity in the Alexandriat space settlement, there are unanswered questions about how much gravity is sufficient for healthy living.” The settlement will also experiment with conditions for growing food in space, including varying gravity levels, atmosphere conditions, and growing techniques. Yubickovich said “the Foundation Society will establish design requirements for this settlement that attempt to answer questions about improving designs for future space settlements.”

Smith said the new settlement will be named Bellevistat, roughly translated as “beautiful view”. He said “Bellevistat will help define the vision of how human habitation and economics will grow to encompass space, the moon, asteroids, and eventually other planets. We think it is a very beautiful view indeed.”