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07/ 17/ 2023

# City of El Paso, Partners Inaugurate ELP Innovation Factory

**WHO:** The City of El Paso International Airport (ELP), Mayor Oscar Leeser, University of Texas at El Paso partners, and community leaders

**WHAT:** ELP Innovation Factory Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 19, 2023

**WHERE:** 501 George Perry, Suite F

The City of El Paso proudly announces the grand opening of the ELP Innovation Factory, a 30,000-square-foot facility dedicated to growing innovative technology development by providing collaborative space options for aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing entrepreneurs.

“We are proud to celebrate the opening of the ELP Innovation Factory,” Mayor Oscar Leeser said. “This facility will provide the collaborative space small businesses need for aerospace and advanced manufacturing research and development that will give El Paso a clear advantage in this developing industry and in attracting high-paying jobs.”

Located on El Paso International Airport property in East El Paso, the ELP Innovation Factory features office spaces, maker spaces, shared lounges, and other support facilities.

The first tenants of the ELP Innovation Factory were awarded the initial three years of tenancy rent-free through a \$3 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant. The funding includes a \$1.5 million local match. The free tenancy provides these businesses with access to the capital necessary to become successful. The businesses were selected based on stringent criteria. The selected businesses stood out in the local defense or aerospace sectors as having the potential to have significant impact on expanded manufacturing capacity in El Paso.

“Supporting businesses is a priority for the City of El Paso because we are committed to having a vibrant regional economy. This unique collaborative space, made possible through partnerships, will retain and grow jobs, strengthen our supply chain and has the potential to provide more opportunities for El Pasoans,” said interim City Manager Cary Westin.

The opening of the ELP Innovation Factory represents a significant milestone in the City's commitment to fostering innovation and economic growth. Through a partnership with The University of Texas at El Paso, the City is developing an innovation district. The district will provide more than 250 acres of industrial land northeast of the airport terminal and runways, supporting an innovative complex for the aerospace defense and advanced manufacturing industries.

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**Media contact:** Tammy Fonce  
Strategic Communications Office  
(915) 212-1201