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Florida Company Has Eyes Set On Red Planet

January 29, 12:04 AM
by Jason Rhian, Tampa Space Program News Examiner

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NEW PORT RICHEY – A new dawn is rising in the space industry, the era of NewSpace. Long building, the flights of SpaceShipOne catapulted the private sector's space efforts into the forefront of the public consciousness. Enter a small start-up company out of New Port Richey, Florida – 4Frontiers.

4Frontiers is the brainchild of Mark Homnick and Joseph E. Palaia IV. Incorporated in 2005, the company is out to provide for the colonization and habitation of the red planet – Mars. The conceptualization, design and promotion of Mars habitats, greenhouses and mining, refining, manufacturing(MRM) technologies are the company's primary focus. As with all things though, these efforts require funding.

4Frontiers operates off of a variety of revenue sources. The company sells assorted products including Martian globes, novelty items and travel packages to space-themed locales. The company also receives numerous grants from the NASA, Space Florida and other organizations. Combined, these revenue streams keep the company working toward its primary mission – Mars in our life time.

Development of a Martian habitat and greenhouse is an ongoing endeavor in which employees and interns have spent untold hours going over the most minute details. 4Frontiers recently engaged several interns who were supported by NASA's Exploration Systems Management Division in development of these two key areas of focus.

One of the company's grandest plans for the future is the construction of a full-scale mock up of the proposed Mars settlement. The concept of the mock is a two-fold idea. For one part it will be a revenue generator, guests can "feel-out" what it would be like to live on Mars in this high-tech tourist attraction. Secondly, the settlement mock-up would serve as a test bed to prove out conceptual designs safely here on earth.

This new company also works public outreach by attending numerous conferences and trade shows. In May of 2009 the National Space Society will hold its annual International Space Development Conference, (ISDC) in Orlando, Florida. 4Frontiers has been contracted to operate the tours of the Kennedy Space Center for the representatives hosting this ISDC.

Jason Rhian

Tampa Space Program News Examiner



My Examiners

Jason Rhian is a former NASA intern that now volunteers at Kennedy Space Center during launches. A NASA/JPL volunteer and a National Space Society chapter president Jason has avidly followed the space program for years.

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All of these assorted endeavors fall under the three primary segments the company focuses on: Entertainment, Education and Research and Development. Entertainment covers a wide spectrum, from assorted items for sale to space-themed chartered tours. Education, the next concentration that 4Frontiers focuses on consists of a wide range of education packages, programs as well as exceptional guest speakers. Research and Development is grounded in the development of designs and materials that will one day be used by settlers on the red planet.

In today's financially turbulent climate the fact that a start-up space company can hold its own is a testimony to the professional nature of the company's founders. In the midst of a recession 4Frontiers still strives to reach the 'high frontier' as space has been called. They still donate, in the form of material support, to events to ensure that attendees are inspired and walk away with a greater appreciation of what it takes to explore – and expand – into space.

In the early years the space industry was the realm of large companies, McDonnell-Douglas, Grumman and Boeing. However in the era of NewSpace, smaller space companies like Space Dev, SpaceX and 4Frontiers are filling new niches and adding a breath of fresh air to the industry. With luck and time the fledgling company will add its own robust energy to the pantheon of space companies.

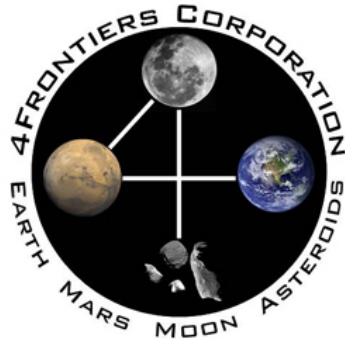


IMAGE CREDIT: 4Frontiers Corporation

For more info: www.4frontierscorp.com

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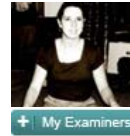
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January 20, 6:15 PM

Photo Credit: NASAAs we mark the inauguration of the first African-American president, it is exciting to note that in the Inauguration Parade is the next-generation Lunar Electric Rover, (LER). Along with astronauts from the recent STS-126... [Read More](#)

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January 17, 10:24 PM

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December 30, 8:38 PM

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