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spacecoast  
**BUSINESS**

APRIL 2009

**50**  
**MOST**  
**INFLUENTIAL**  
**BUSINESSES**



- BEST PRACTICES FROM LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS: ANTHONY CATANESE - CHUCK NELSON - MITCH GARNER - ROBERT JORDAN - DAN MOISAND - STAN PAYNE - JEFF SHUMAN - AND MORE -

50

**Most Influential  
Businesses in  
Brevard County**

"Nothing like it in the world" is a fitting description for Florida's Space Coast. Where else can they boast of transitioning from planting orange groves to putting men on the moon in less than fifty years? Where have they gone from being a sleepy dock for shrimp boats to one of the busiest cruise ship ports in the world? Where else have they built a world-class technological university beginning with nothing but a dream and someone's loose change?

The Space Coast has been the birthplace of some of the most amazing and groundbreaking innovations in history. Our technology and information systems link the world, while our Port and "World Famous" beaches attract visitors from every continent. Even in times that many consider "uncertain," one thing is crystal clear: our region continues to grow and advance, in both economic diversity and an unparalleled quality of life.

The "50 Most Influential Businesses" is our opportunity to recognize and celebrate those organizations that are reaching into our region to bring opportunity and enrichment. They also are reaching beyond our community to bring influence, in the form of ideas, goods and services that enhance the national and global community.

"Influence" is the best word we could use to describe these businesses. They are large and small, high tech and service oriented. In each case they have, as Jim Collins said in his best selling book, not allowed "being good to be the enemy of being great."

To compile this list, the editorial staff of *Spacecoast Business* solicited input from our readers, the general public, and established business leaders using the following criteria:

**Vision** – Does the company represent a positive and proactive view of the future, not only in making its place in the future market, but by investing in the future of our community and overall quality of life?

**Innovation** – Do they have creative products and services that bring benefit to the maximum number of people and represent exceptional employee and customer services?

**Resilience** – Do they have that quality of endurance and adaptability that extends beyond the "flash in the pan"?

**Leadership** – Does the company demonstrate the judgment, innovation and wisdom to influence others to follow its lead?

... down to our Top 50 we chose to focus on companies than government and non-profit organizations of which many exert significant influence on the county and are listed in the sidebar

... whether your favorites made the list, we hope to see the companies highlighted in the sidebar represent the best of the Space Coast.

## THE 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL BUSINESSES IN BREVARD COUNTY

The Top 50 are listed in **ALPHABETICAL ORDER**, not in order of their significance.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| AuthenTec  | Kennedy Space Center Federal Credit Union                   |
| Bayside Lakes  | Lightle Commercial  |
| Beachside Physical Therapy                                     | Luke & Associates   |
| Berman Hopkins Wright & LaHam CPAs & Associates                | MAI Design Build  |
| Brevard Community College/ King Center for the Performing Arts | Melbourne International Internal Medicine Associates (MIMA) |
| Bright House Networks  | Melbourne International Airport                             |
| BRPH Companies   | Mercedes-Benz Porsche Audi of Melbourne                     |
| Cancer Care Centers of Brevard                                 | Northrop Grumman  |
| CIA Developers   | Ocean Partners Associates                                   |
| Cocoa Beach Surf Company                                       | One Senior Place  |
| Community Credit Union Florida                                 | Parrish Medical Center                                      |
| Craig Technologies   | PNC/National City   |
| Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront Resort & Spa                 | Port Canaveral  |
| DRS Technologies   | Prime Bank  |
| Florida Eye Associates   | Ron Jon Surf Shop   |
| Florida Institute of Technology                                | RSM McGladrey   |
| Florida Today  | Space Coast Credit Union                                    |
| 45th Space Wing, U.S. Air Force                                | Space Coast Medical Associates/ Space Coast Cancer Centers  |
| Gatto's Tires & Auto Service                                   | Sun & Skin Care Research (Ocean Potion)                     |
| GE Transportation Systems                                      | Symetrics Industries  |
| Gray Robinson Attorneys at Law                                 | Viera Company, The  |
| Harris Corporation   | W & J Construction  |
| Health First   | Whittaker Cooper Financial Group                            |
| Holeman Suman Architects                                       | Wuesthoff Health System                                     |
| Hoyman Dobson  |   |
| Kennedy Space Center/NASA                                      |   |

## MOST INFLUENTIAL GOVERNMENT AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- Brevard County Board of County Commissioners
- Brevard County Clerk of the Court
- Brevard Cultural Alliance
- Brevard Public Schools
- Brevard Workforce Development Board
- Cocoa Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
- Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast

- Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast
- Greater Palm Bay Chamber, The
- LEAD Brevard
- Melbourne-Palm Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
- Space Coast Office of Tourism
- Technological Research & Development Authority
- Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce
- United Way of Brevard

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**Company:** Symetrics Industries

**Location:** Melbourne

**Industry:** Electronics manufacturing

**Business type:** Private

**Web address:** www.symetrics.com

**Description:** Symetrics is a privately-held Florida corporation that specializes in the design, manufacture and testing of electronic systems for the Department of Defense, NASA, and prime contractors.

**Why it made the list:** A locally-owned business for more than four decades, Symetrics continues to grow with products like line replaceable units; a chaff and flare dispenser system for protection against hostile missile threats, along with the flight line tester for dispensers; the MD-1295A improved data modem for digital communication onboard military aircraft; the PRISM Improved Data Modem, which adds an imagery transmission system to the aircraft; the AN/USQ-131 Memory Loader Verifier Set for transfer and verification of electronic warfare software; circuit card assemblies for the prime contractor for Bradley Fighting Vehicle optics and the systems for Apache helicopters; and Arrow missile systems.

The company, which stresses "caring leadership, incentive-based improvement programs, (and) quality workmanship," had a 99.4 percent on-time delivery rate last year. It also is community-oriented, having supported the Eau Gallie Rotary Club with its 2008 Space Coast Lightfest; and contributed to the Space Coast Early Intervention Center, Junior Achievement, the March for Babies and Covenant Christian School. The company also participated in career shadowing event at Melbourne High School.

In recent months, Symetrics was named "Manufacturer of the Year" by the Manufacturers' Association of Florida. The Melbourne-Palm Bay Area Chamber of Commerce honored the company with a Best Business Award for the second consecutive year and the Cocoa Beach Area Chamber of Commerce gave Symetrics a "Business of the Year" award for excellence in technical manufacturing.

