

SPACE APPLICATIONS SERVICES

[PRESS RELEASE]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPACE APPLICATIONS SERVICES LEADERSHIP TOURS STARLAB MOCK-UP AT NASA'S JOHNSON SPACE CENTER



ZAVENTEM, BELGIUM, DECEMBER 16, 2025

Starlab's business development team welcomed Space Applications Services executives to tour the Starlab mock-up at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. This visit follows last month's announcement that Space Applications has joined the Starlab joint venture and supports efforts to engage pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies in leveraging Starlab for research and manufacturing in microgravity.

The delegation included **Richard Aked, Managing Director of Space Applications Services, Matt Souris, President of Aerospace Applications North America, and Robert Taub, Chairman and majority shareholder of Space Applications Services.** Aerospace Applications North America is Space Applications' U.S. subsidiary, providing mission operations and integration services for NASA and commercial partners.

Richard Aked stated:

"Space Applications today provides and operates life science research capabilities on the ISS and is launching additional new pharmaceutical R&D platforms to space in the course of 2026. Building on this, we will provide the European gateway for life science research and pharmaceutical manufacturing on Starlab."

Robert Taub, serial entrepreneur with decades of leadership in the pharmaceutical and biomedical sectors, added:

"Microgravity offers a unique environment where biological and chemical processes behave differently than on Earth. This means we can accelerate drug discovery, improve protein crystallisation, and develop advanced biomaterials without the limitations of gravity. For life sciences, this is not just incremental progress, it is a paradigm shift that will unlock therapies and technologies we could not achieve on Earth. That is why we are committed to Starlab: launching to space to bring these new opportunities to humanity."

Robert's career includes senior roles at Baxter, Revlon Health Care Group, and Monsanto, as well as founding and scaling companies such as Omrix Biopharmaceuticals (acquired by Johnson & Johnson), Octapharma, Nyxoah, and FemPulse. His decision to invest in aerospace reflects a vision to connect life sciences and space-based research, creating new opportunities for pharmaceutical and cosmetic innovation.

The visit to JSC provided Space Applications leadership with a detailed view of Starlab's design and capabilities, reinforcing its role in enabling global access to microgravity research and manufacturing.



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Space Applications and Starlab leadership tour the Starlab space station mock-up at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. From left to right: Mark Magno, Matt Souris, Richard Aked, Courtenay McMillan, Robert Taub, Vergel Romero, Costa Mavridis.

About Space Applications Services and Aerospace Applications North America

Space Applications Services, based in Zaventem, Belgium, develops advanced technologies for human spaceflight, exploration, and Earth observation. Aerospace Applications North America, headquartered in Houston, is its U.S. counterpart, supporting NASA programs and commercial space initiatives since 2004.

About Starlab

Starlab Space LLC is a global joint venture comprising Voyager Technologies, Airbus, Mitsubishi Corporation, MDA Space, Palantir Technologies, and Space Applications Services, with strategic partners such as Hilton, Journey, Northrop Grumman, and The Ohio State University. Starlab is developing a next-generation, AI-enabled commercial space station to ensure a continued human presence in low-Earth orbit and support scientific research beyond the International Space Station.



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