

AIAA GHS July Luncheon with Bobby Watkins, NASA Director of Human Exploration Development and Operations (HEDO) - **Artemis: Forward to the Moon by 2024**

By Nishanth Goli

The AIAA Greater Huntsville Section conducts monthly lunch and learn session for its members, their guests and non-members. The section invites accomplished individuals to speak on topics that cater to the interest of AIAA members and non-members.

For the July luncheon of the AIAA GHS, the council wanted to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11 by looking at what the next 50 years of Human missions to Moon, Mars and beyond would look like. To learn about these topics, the section leadership invited Bobby Watkins who graciously accepted to speak at the luncheon. Bobby Watkins currently serves as the director of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) Human Exploration Development and Operations (HEDO) Office, managing all human exploration and operations program work except the Space Launch System.

NASA is executing a plan to land American astronauts, including the first woman, on the Moon by 2024. This is an ambitious goal but the Agency is poised to achieve it through the Artemis program. Mr. Watkins presentation provided information on the Artemis program and how it sets the framework for taking us not only to the Moon, but to Mars and deep space. He spoke about the goals, and the phases of exploration and answered questions from many of the attendees.

Kord Technologies of Huntsville, AL, graciously offered their meeting room as the venue for the luncheon. The luncheon was well attended with over 40 participants that included AIAA professional members, student members and non-members and Kord employees. Kathleen catering provided catering services for members who purchased lunch.



AIAA GHS Chair, Greg Simpson, presenting the section coin to Bobby Watkins for his presentation during the July Luncheon
(Pic Courtesy – Nishanth Goli)



Bobby Watkins, NASA Director of Human Exploration Development and Operations (HEDO) presenting during the AIAA GHS July Luncheon (Pic Courtesy – Nishanth Goli)