

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Canaveral Council of Technical Societies Bestows Spaced Congress Achievement Award and Space Congress Technical Achievement Award**

Awards recognize significant achievements in defense and aerospace industries

**CAPE CANAVERAL, FL** – Dr. David L. Block, director of the NASA Hydrogen Research Center, and William Roeder, chief staff meteorologist of the 45<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron, were honored by the Canaveral Council of Technical Societies (CCTS) Wednesday night, April 30, at the 40<sup>th</sup> Space Congress Gala for their significant achievements to the local defense and aerospace communities.

Dr. David Block received the Space Congress Achievement Award for his vision of a hydrogen research program. Stepping down after 25 years as director of the Florida Solar Energy Center, Block is the director of the Center's \$5.4 million dollar NASA grant entitled, "NASA Hydrogen Research at Florida Universities." The grant is the culmination of Dr. Block's efforts for the past 20 years to build a major hydrogen research and development program at Florida Solar Energy Center in order to provide direct benefits to the space shuttle program. This would include lowering costs, improving hydrogen production and handling, and studying new fuels for the future of America's space program. For these reasons, and as a result of his leadership in the development of these savings and efficiencies, Dr. Block was chosen to receive the Achievement Award.

William Roeder accepted the Space Congress Technical Achievement Award for his work with improved weather safety at the 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing and Kennedy Space Center. This award is presented annually to a person who has made a significant improvement or advancement in a process (such as software, planning and scheduling or hardware) to the benefit of the government or company during the previous year. Roeder improved weather warnings through computer based training for lightning warnings, training briefings, and lecturers. In addition, Roeder implemented an extensive weather safety public education program.

CCTS is an organization of professional technical societies who promotes and supports activities of the technical, scientific, engineering, and professional organizations in Brevard County. CCTS is the originator and sponsor of Space Congress, as well as supporter of a number of educational activities and awards for Brevard's schools. Currently there are 29 member societies, 4 associate member's societies, and 6 advisor organizations.

### **About Space Congress**

The Canaveral Council of Technical Societies (CCTS) created Space Congress in 1962 to promote professionalism in the space program. Space Congress is organized in cooperation with NASA, the Department of Defense, industry and academia. The annual event provides a forum for space professionals to share their knowledge of issues facing the space program. Proceeds from Space Congress are used to present annual achievement and technical awards, conduct an annual Career Night, and to sponsor or support many local educational programs offered by schools and groups in the Space Coast area. For more information visit [www.spacecongress.org](http://www.spacecongress.org) or call 321-724-1688.