

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Dennis Tito to Speak at 40<sup>th</sup> Space Congress Gala April 30**

*CEO of Wilshire Associates to tell about his training and adventure on the International Space Station in 2001.*

**CAPE CANAVERAL, FL** -- The Executive Committee of the 40<sup>th</sup> Space Congress announced today that Dennis Tito will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conference as special guest speaker for the black tie Gala, Wednesday, April 30, 6:30 pm, at the Radisson Resort at the Port Conference Center. Tito, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Wilshire Associates, Inc., also became the first private space tourist when he traveled with two cosmonauts to the International Space Station in 2001. The event is open to the public and individual tickets or corporate tables can be purchased at [www.spacecongress.org](http://www.spacecongress.org) or by phone: 321-452-3068.

“We are looking forward to Mr. Tito joining us and sharing his training and mission experiences,” comments Kevin Hoshstrasser, Chairman of the 40<sup>th</sup> Space Congress. “His enthusiasm for the space program excites everyone around him – he will be a very enjoyable guest speaker with a unique perspective on the space program.” Tito spent one week on the International Space Station and commented he would like to explore the commercialization of space tourism.

Space Congress provides a forum for space professionals to meet and share their knowledge of technical areas and issues facing the space program. This year’s event kicks off Monday, April 28, 2003, at the Radisson Resort at the Port in Cape Canaveral with Keynote Speaker Sean O’Keefe, NASA Administrator. The conference will feature Science Highlight Dr. Riccardo Giacconi, Nobel Laureate and Research Professor with Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Shannon Lucid, NASA Chief Scientist; Orlando Figueroa, NASA Mars Exploration; and many others. Panel and Paper sessions at the 40<sup>th</sup> Space Congress will emphasize this year’s theme “Linking the Past to the Future: A Celebration of Space.”

To register for the conference, visit [www.spacecongress.org](http://www.spacecongress.org) or call 321-452-3068.

### **About Space Congress**

The Canaveral Council of Technical Societies (CCTS) created Space Congress in 1962 to stimulate interest and promote professionalism in the space program. Space Congress is organized in cooperation with NASA, the Department of Defense, industry and academia. CCTS uses Space Congress proceeds to present annual achievement and technical awards, conduct an annual Career Night to expose local students to scientific, engineering and related careers, 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 321-868-1623.