

# Axiom Space breaks ground on new Houston Spaceport HQ

By Jeff Jeffrey

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Just weeks after completing the first all-private mission to the International Space Station, Houston-based Axiom Space is breaking ground on its new headquarters at the Houston Spaceport.

Axiom scheduled a May 11 groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate major construction getting underway. The company expects to move its headquarters to the new spaceport campus in 2023.

The Houston Airport System announced in February that Houston City Council and Axiom had finalized the ground lease and user agreement for the previously announced facility.

The 22-acre Space Flight and Assembly Headquarters will be used to train private astronauts and for the production of the Axiom Station, which has been billed as the world's first free-flying, internationally available, private space station. The space station will be used for research manufacturing and commerce in low-earth orbit.

Late last month, the Axiom Mission 1 crew and the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft splashed down off the coast of Florida.

Ax-1, which launched April 8 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida, was the first of several missions Axiom has planned to the ISS. The company currently is negotiating the details of Axiom Mission 2 with NASA. Axiom has said it plans to offer private and national astronaut flights up to twice annually. Last year, Axiom reached an agreement with SpaceX for Axiom's next three commercial missions to the ISS.

Ax-1 Commander Michael López-Alegría, pilot Larry Connor, and mission specialists Eytan Stibbe and Mark Pathy worked aboard the orbiting ISS laboratory for 15 days. The mission supported 26 science payloads and technology demonstrations with academic and research partners worldwide, among other accomplishments.

Axiom Space was founded in 2016. Last year, the space technology company raised \$130 million in Series B funding. The company now has 420 employees and \$500 million in customer contracts, and it's on track to have closed more than \$1 billion of customer contracts before the end of 2022.

Elsewhere within the Houston Spaceport, Houston-based aerospace company Intuitive Machines broke ground in December on its new \$40 million lunar production and operations center, a facility which will span across an estimated 12.5 acres and have more than 125,000 square feet of office and advanced-production space. In June, Charlotte, North Carolina-based Collins Aerospace also announced plans for a new 8-acre, 120,000-square-foot aerospace manufacturing campus at the Houston Spaceport.

The Spaceport currently has 153 developed and ready-to-build acres.