

State News for NSPE Members

Southwest Florida International Airport Terminal Expansion Expected to Be Completed in 2025

The passenger terminal of Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) located in Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, is being expanded to maximize capacity and offer passengers more facilities and services, according to [Airport Technology](#). The expansion project represents the second largest public works project in the history of Lee County.

The Lee County Port Authority is developing the project with an estimated investment of \$331 million. Construction on the project began in October 2021 and the expanded terminal is expected to be operational in 2025.

The RSW airport terminal expansion will help in meeting the increased passenger traffic that has reached pre-Covid levels of more than 10 million passengers a year. It aims to improve the airport passenger experience by reducing passenger wait times, improving Transportation Security Administration checkpoint activities, increasing post-security offerings, connecting concourses, and adding amenities. [Read more.](#)

The NASA Economic Impact on Florida

NASA has a unique mission that provides benefits in big and small ways as funding spent for space exploration create jobs, jumpstarts businesses, and grows the economy. NASA's economic impact is nationwide, but how does Florida benefit?

There are 2,172 NASA federal jobs and 19,852 contractors in Florida. For every NASA federal job located in Florida, an additional 16.8 jobs are supported in the state economy. For every million dollars' worth of economic output generated by NASA federal jobs, an additional \$6 million worth of output is sustained throughout the state economy. [Read more.](#)

A 5,000-Mile-Long Wad of Seaweed Takes Aim at Florida's Beaches

Researchers say a 5,000-mile-long seaweed bloom stretching from the shores of West Africa to the Florida Keys could be the largest in history, [reports Fox-13 in Tampa Bay](#).

It's something researchers have been studying for the last decade and say this year's bloom could pose health risks and cause problems to the environment and infrastructure. According to [Popular Science](#), as the mass inches closer to land, it can diminish water and air quality, smother coral reefs, and restrict oxygen for coastal fish. While some seaweed can be used in sustainable products, this sargassum is virtually useless—and very smelly. [Read more](#).

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

TVA Engineer Named 2023 FEYA Winner

Stephen Craven, Ph.D., P.E., was named [NSPE's 2023 Federal Engineer of the Year](#) for his innovative work securing Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) substations and developing improved communication architecture. Now in its 44th year, the Federal Engineer of the Year Award is the only one of its kind to solely recognize outstanding engineers employed in the federal government. Federal agency winners were honored during a ceremony held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, on February 24.



Stephen Craven is a third-generation TVA engineer, serving at the agency's Power Service Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Among his accomplishments, Craven has helped secure substations against cyber-attacks, designing ways to keep critical equipment disconnected from external attackers and yet still be remotely monitored for anomalies. He was also instrumental in the development of a new communication architecture that is faster, more reliable, and less expensive than previous schemes. [Read more](#).

FEYA ceremony photos can be accessed on the NSPE [Flickr album](#).

WORKability Wednesdays Are Back!

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—"WORKability Wednesdays"—to support members with their professional development goals. The series covers topics impacting the industry and helps to enhance your competencies in the profession. The spring season sessions kicked off on March 8 with [Understanding the New Requirements for Cybersecurity Insurance](#). Register now at [NSPE's PE Institute](#) and invite a colleague to attend.

Upcoming webinars

- **March 22**—[Using Construction Manager at Risk Project Delivery to Manage the Current Challenges in Constructing Projects](#)
- **April 12**—[Doing Bad Things for Good Reasons: An Examination of Unethical Pro-Organizational Behavior Among Professional Workers](#)
- **Save the date for webinars on April 26, May 17, and May 31**

Take the Milton F. Lunch Ethics Challenge!

Match your wits and knowledge of engineering ethics with experienced professional engineers and engineering students throughout the country! All current NSPE individual members and NSPE chapters (including student members) are invited to participate in the [2023 NSPE Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest](#). Contest submissions are due by **May 12**. [View past contest winner entries](#).

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