



bay area citizen – news

Space layoffs begin here

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With the shuttle's retirement looming and NASA Headquarters demanding that aerospace contractors adhere to the Anti-Deficiency Act, layoffs have begun.

The act requires all federal contractors to set aside part of the money paid them in contracts to cover shutdown costs in case a project is canceled.

United Space Alliance has already laid off 65 employees here in Clear Lake and another 372 people company wide, mostly in Florida.

USA spokesperson Kari Fluegel said 96 percent of those leaving volunteered for the layoff and received severance packages.

Boeing spokesman Ed Memi said Friday his company was not anticipating layoffs here in Clear Lake "at this point. We do have some folks supporting our Constellation programs here, but we hopefully will be able to shift them to other programs.

"There is an impact at our Huntsville, Ala., site, where we plan to issue 60-day layoff notices to about 100 employees July 2. We will probably have additional layoffs of Ares folks as we go forward."

Boeing employs about 300 in Huntsville.

Lockheed Martin also is expecting to begin some layoffs.

20 PERCENT CUT

"The impact of this has required a reduction in procurements and necessitated a 20 percent reduction across the program for Lockheed Martin and our subcontractors and suppliers to allow work to continue within the FY10 budget limitations," spokesperson Linda Singleton said Monday.

"As a result, we are moving about 600 positions off the Orion project -- about 300 with Lockheed Martin and about 300 with our subcontractors. We anticipate that some layoffs

may be unavoidable, so we are working diligently to find other job opportunities for Orion employees within Lockheed Martin.”

The company is looking at a number of locations where work on Orion is being conducted, such as Texas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Utah and other states, she explained.

E-MAIL FROM RUSSIA

Meanwhile, Johnson Space Center Director Mike Coats, in Russia for the ISS crew launch from Baikonur, Kazakhstan, e-mailed employees and contractors about the “replanning of Constellation operations.

“This replan will have an impact on contracts, workforce and planned content of the Constellation Program,” he said. “We don’t know the specific impacts at the center levels or at JSC yet. The program is working through the projects and implementing organizations to determine plans and numbers of team members that will be affected. This is going to be a difficult time for the JSC team. I encourage you to reach out and support one another during this process.”