



X PRIZE Brings the Future of Space Tourism to Chabot Space & Science Center

**— Chabot Hosts Presentation on \$10-million Spacecraft Design Competition
January 15, 2004, 6 pm to 8 pm —**

OAKLAND, CA (January 7, 2004) — Chabot Space & Science Center has partnered with the leadership of the X PRIZE — a \$10-million private spaceflight competition — to promote the development of the next generation of space vehicles and the future of space tourism. On **Thursday, January 15th, 2004, from 6 pm to 8 pm**, the leaders of the X PRIZE will be at Chabot Space & Science Center to offer a first-hand, VIP update on the teams, their technology, and the status of the competition. Attendees will also be offered the opportunity to support the X PRIZE and Chabot's upcoming exhibit, "Living and Working in Space."

Fewer than 450 astronauts and only a handful of piloted space vehicles have flown in space during the past 42 years. The X PRIZE will usher in a Golden Age of spaceflight creating thousands of private astronauts flying aboard dozens of privately owned and operated spaceships. In the spirit of Charles Lindbergh's historic transatlantic flight in 1927 to win the \$25,000 Orteig Prize, X PRIZE Teams will compete in the months ahead to become the first private astronauts. Now, with flight tests, engine firings and hardware rollouts occurring on a weekly basis, the pace of the X PRIZE New Race to Space has hit an exhilarating high.

During the past few months 27 X PRIZE Teams from seven nations have been building and testing their private spaceships. Just recently, Burt Rutan flew his X PRIZE entry (Space Ship One, funded by Paul Allen) under rocket power to Mach 1.2. A winner of the X PRIZE (two consecutive flights to 100 KM within two weeks) is expected in the next 6–9 months.

The fund-raising event will be an opportunity for potential sponsors to learn about these teams, their designs, and the future billion-dollar space tourism marketplace. The January 15 program will include a presentation on the X PRIZE Competition; an update on the 27 Teams; technical details; a briefing on Chabot's X PRIZE and Living and Working in Space Exhibits; and X PRIZE Cup Status. Presenters will include: Alex Barnett, Executive Director, Chabot Space & Science Center; Peter H. Diamandis, X PRIZE Chairman and CEO; Erik Lindbergh, X PRIZE VP and grandson of Charles Lindbergh; Col. Rick Searfoss, Astronaut and X PRIZE Chief Judge. In addition to Barnett and Diamandis, the X PRIZE Invitation Committee also includes: Garrett Gruener, General Partner, Alta Partners; Dan Miller, Director, The Roda Group; Elon Musk, Founder, PayPal and CEO, SpaceX; Eric Tilenius, President, Tilenius Ventures; Ken Winans, Chairman, W Foundation; George Zachary, Venture Capitalist.

A goal of the event is for X PRIZE and Chabot to raise \$200,000 in support of their educational efforts. Historically, X PRIZE and its Science Center partners have been supported through private benefactors and donors. The major supporting organization of the X PRIZE is called the New Spirit of St. Louis Organization (NSSL). Limited to 100 individuals in total, the group is modeled after the organization that originally backed Charles Lindbergh on his 1927 flight (currently there are 80 members and 20 positions left). Membership in the New Spirit

organization costs \$25,000 and has a variety of benefits including VIP access to all launches and confidential briefings and status updates. In addition, the 100 members of the New Spirit organization are recognized in all materials as the backers making the X PRIZE possible. Smaller contribution levels will be available with varying benefits to the donor.

* * *

GENERAL INFORMATION

The X PRIZE Foundation is a not-for-profit educational organization, with headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. Supported by private donations and the St. Louis Community, the foundation's mission is to provide incentives in the private sector to make space travel frequent and affordable for the general public. The X PRIZE competition, the first-ever space-based incentive competition, follows in the footsteps of more than 100 aviation incentive prizes offered early last century, that created today's \$300 billion-dollar commercial air transport industry. The most significant of these prizes was the Orteig Prize, won by Charles Lindbergh for his 1927 flight from New York to Paris. To win the \$10 million X PRIZE, a spacecraft must be privately financed and constructed with the ability to fly three people into space. It also must be reusable, flying twice within a two-week period. A winner of the X PRIZE Competition is expected within the next 12 months. For more information, visit www.xprize.org.

Chabot Space & Science Center is located at 10000 Skyline Blvd. in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park. Public hours: Friday, 5 pm–10 pm; Saturday, 10 am–10 pm; Sunday, 12 noon–5 pm. General admission, including free parking and a Planetarium show, is \$11.00 for adults, \$8.00 youth and seniors. Children under 3 are admitted free. Students with ID receive a \$1.00 discount. Shows in the MegaDome Theater are \$6.00 adult, and \$5.00 youth and seniors. Telescopes are open for Free Public Viewing Fridays & Saturdays from dusk – 10 pm, weather permitting. Tickets may be purchased at the door, or by calling (510) 336-7373.

For more information, call (510) 336-7300, or visit www.chabotspace.org

#