



**For Immediate Release:
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New Horizons Foundation and Q Station Partner to Expand Innovation and Economic Opportunity in the Permian Basin

HOBBS, NM — The New Horizons Foundation (NHF) and Q Station today announced a new strategic partnership to accelerate innovation and strengthen economic growth in New Mexico's Permian Basin.

Aligned with NHF's mission to advance education, science, conservation, health care, and economic development in Lea County and across the Permian Basin, the two nonprofit economic development organizations will work together to build on the region's strong energy sector while exploring opportunities to diversify the economy into emerging industries such as space and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS).

Headquartered in Albuquerque, Q Station is a collaborative innovation hub advancing defense, space, and advanced technology. As a Partnership Intermediary for the Air Force Research Laboratory, Q Station connects commercial technologies with Air Force and Space Force needs and helps companies navigate working with the government. It is helping lead the growth of New Mexico's space sector and connecting it to the larger space ecosystem through partnerships it has established across the country and world.

Q Station recently announced an expansion into the UAS sector, supported in part by a congressional appropriation to help strengthen the UAS ecosystem in North Dakota, the epicenter of UAS activity in the United States.

Through this partnership, NHF and Q Station will evaluate opportunities to establish space and UAS activity in the Permian Basin, building on the region's existing strengths while positioning it for long-term economic resilience and growth.

"Diversification is essential to sustaining economic growth in our region," said Dennis Homberg, NHF Executive Director. "This partnership with Q Station brings national-level innovation expertise to the Permian Basin and gives us a roadmap for expanding into high-growth sectors while strengthening our existing energy economy."

"The future of economic development belongs to regions that are willing to innovate," said Toni Balzano, Q Station VP of Strategy. "We're excited to work alongside NHF to explore how space and UAS capabilities can complement the Permian Basin's strong energy foundation."

The first initiative of this partnership will be the Q Station Energy Challenge, designed to bring entrepreneurs, researchers, industry partners, and investors together to develop scalable solutions to improve performance and efficiency across energy sectors—oil and gas, wind, solar, nuclear, and emerging technologies. More details about the challenge will be released when applications open in April.

About New Horizons Foundation:

Based in Hobbs, New Mexico, and primarily funded by the New Mexico Junior College, the New Horizons Foundation acts as an economic development and philanthropic entity in the Permian Basin, focusing on fostering technology-driven business ventures, investing in research, and supporting community development. More information at www.nhfoundation.net.

About Q Station:

Q Station is a collaborative innovation hub advancing defense, space, and advanced technology. It brings together industry, startups, federal laboratories, universities, the military, and policymakers to accelerate solutions with real-world impact. Through its Partnership Intermediary Agreement with the Air Force Research Laboratory, Q Station connects commercial technologies to Air Force and Space Force needs and helps companies navigate pathways to government partnerships. More information at www.qstation.tech.

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