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Morning Briefing

## Raytheon makes \$25M donation to the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum

Apr 7, 2022, 8:13am EDT

Raytheon Technologies Corp. (NYSE: RTX) is donating \$25 million to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum for the creation of a new exhibit.

The 11,800-square-foot "Raytheon Technologies Living in the Space Age" exhibit, which is expected to open in 2025, is aimed at showing visitors how innovations in space technology have transformed their lives. The donation from the Waltham, Massachusetts defense giant will also sponsor a museum program for STEM engagement with visitors, including the hiring of high school and college students to demonstrate the concepts surrounding museum exhibits through hands-on activities.



NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

The "Raytheon Technologies Living in the Space Age" exhibition, seen here in a rendering, is expected to open in 2025 at the National Air and Space Museum.

The Raytheon exhibit will provide a look at space hardware and infrastructure from the beginning of the Space Age in the late 1950s to present day. Exhibit artifacts will include the Hubble Space Telescope, Skylab Orbital Workshop and several generations of spacesuits. Other content will include information on the development of rocket technology, ballistic missiles and technology to launch satellites and space systems for Earth observation, communications and navigation.

"The large-scale artifacts on display in the gallery will create a powerful sense of awe and allow us to tell stories about how space exploration affects us all," Chris Browne, acting director of the National Air and Space Museum, said in a statement.

Raytheon employs roughly 3,500 in Greater Washington, with its intelligence and space segment headquartered in Rosslyn.

The Raytheon gift arrives just as the museum closed to conduct ongoing work on a \$1 billion renovation project. The museum is using the current closure — expected to end this fall — to finish new exhibits in its west wing, which will include displays on the solar system's planets and moons, high-speed technology, early aviation and the Wright brothers. All are expected to be ready when the museum reopens in the fall. The museum is also renovating the east wing, where the Raytheon exhibit will likely be housed.

The museum is also readying for the construction of a new addition funded by Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos. The 50,000-square-foot Bezos Learning Center, which will replace the restaurant space on the east terrace of the museum, will house programs and activities related to innovation and careers in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. It will include a ground-floor restaurant, second-floor space for programs and a third-floor terrace with views of the National Mall and U.S. Capitol.

Bezos donated \$130 million for the learning center and another \$70 million to help pay for the museum's overall renovations, which began in 2018.

The Air and Space Museum welcomed 3.87 million visitors in 2019, down from 6.38 million in 2018 — when it was the No. 2 most-visited tourist site in Greater Washington behind only the Lincoln Memorial, according to Washington Business Journal research. It welcomed just 267,003 visitors in 2020 amid closures related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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## **Enlightenment's latest investment**

Enlightenment Capital said Wednesday it has made an investment in Towson, Maryland's PM Consulting Group, a management consulting firm focused on international development, health care and program management services for federal clients.

The size of the investment was not disclosed.

PM Consulting's clients include the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Defense Health Agency and the Department of Defense, among other federal agencies.

"Now more than ever, the world needs innovative and mission-driven companies supporting displaced populations, administering foreign aid and partnering with international communities to implement life-changing programs," Devin Talbott, Enlightenment Capital founder and managing partner, said in a statement.

Enlightenment, which was founded in 2012 by Talbott and Pierre Chao, though the latter has stepped back into an advisory role now, invests in mid-sized aerospace, defense and government services companies, particularly ones that are headed by founder-CEOs, and span a range of services, from cyber, data, IT and drone services.

The PM Consulting deal comes less than a month after Enlightenment agreed to sell Reston cybersecurity contractor EverWatch Corp. to McLean IT consulting giant Booz Allen Hamilton Inc. Terms of that deal were not disclosed.

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## **Odds and ends**

The Maryland House has approved \$400 million in infrastructure improvements around FedEx Field in an effort to keep the Washington Commanders in Landover. The NFL team has also been pursuing stadium options in Northern Virginia. (Associated Press)

A renewed effort to raise the District's minimum wage for tipped workers will appear on November's ballot. (Washington Post)

Georgetown University has reinstated its indoor mask mandate in response to a "significant increase" in Covid-19 cases on its campus, particularly among undergraduate students. (Georgetown University)

Steve Case, the billionaire co-founder of AOL and D.C. venture firm Revolution LLC, will be out with a new book this fall called "The Rise of the Rest: How Entrepreneurs in Surprising Places are Building the New American Dream." The book documents Case's Rise of the Rest bus tours, which aim to spotlight startups outside of traditional hotbeds like Silicon Valley. (Simon & Schuster)

Herndon telemedicine company SOC Telemed Inc. has closed its deal to be acquired by Menlo Park, California's Patient Square Capital. (Patient Square Capital)

To-go cocktails and alcohol delivery have been extended for another two years in Virginia. (Richmond Times-Dispatch)

It's opening day for the Washington Nationals. Thursday's game against the New York Mets has been pushed back to a 7:05 p.m. start because of rain in the forecast. (WTOP)

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