

RAS AL KHAIMAH SETS COURSE FOR GROUND-BREAKING ASTRONAUT TRAINING EXPERIENCES



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Action Flight Aviation and BLINC Space sign MOU to introduce astronaut training and space readiness experience in Ras Al Khaimah in presence of His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi.

Ras Al Khaimah, UAE – 7th May 2026 – In the presence of His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, the Emirate has unveiled an ambitious new vision for tourism and commercial spaceflight with the launch of the first astronaut training experience through a strategic partnership between Action Flight Aviation, Ras Al Khaimah’s advanced aviation and flight training operator, and BLINC Space, a global astronaut training and human spaceflight platform shaping the future of commercial astronaut readiness.

The MOU was signed during a high-profile event in presence of a distinguished delegation of spaceflight experts and investors, including Ché Bolden, Chief Executive Officer of the Charles F. Bolden Group and son of former NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden Jr., and NASA astronaut Dr. Jeanette J. Epps.

Through this partnership, the two organisations will introduce immersive, astronaut-training experiences in Ras Al Khaimah. The programme will feature a range of experiences, including high-performance aviation, G-force conditioning, aerobatic flight operations, parachute and freefall preparation, and zero-gravity training concepts. These will be delivered as structured journeys tailored for future private astronauts, corporate groups, and visitors seeking transformative experiences.

Participants will train in controlled airborne environments designed to simulate launch and re-entry conditions, spatial disorientation, high-pressure decision-making, and the physical and mental demands of extreme human endurance.

The initiative closely aligns with Ras Al Khaimah’s tourism development strategy and supports its ambition to position the emirate as a future-focused destination offering differentiated tourism experiences.



Brent Anderson, Chief Commercial Officer of Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority, said: “Ras Al Khaimah is focused on delivering distinctive experiences that push the boundaries of innovation, adventure, and premium experiential tourism. This initiative introduces a unique future-facing experience category, supporting our vision to attract high-value visitors and experiential explorers.”

Mac Malkawi, Founder and CEO of BLINC Space, said: “Our goal is to help shape the UAE’s future in space by empowering the next generation of explorers. This partnership is about creating an experience where people can engage directly with the future of human spaceflight. Ras Al Khaimah has the right environment, infrastructure, and ambition to emerge as a globally recognised hub for astronaut readiness, experiential training, and commercial space tourism.”

Captain Wayne A. Jack, Founder and CEO of Action Flight Aviation LLC and Vertical Advanced Flight Training, said: “Building on the advanced aviation experiences we already operate in Ras Al Khaimah, this initiative takes our offering into entirely new territory. By integrating astronaut preparation concepts into immersive tourism and training programmes, we are redefining what premium experiential travel can be. It positions Action Flight and Ras Al Khaimah as global first movers in a category that brings together tourism, aviation, human performance, and space readiness.”

Action Flight Aviation will exclusively operate all airborne training and aviation activities in Ras Al Khaimah under its GCAA Air Operator Certificate and Air Training Organisation approvals, while BLINC Space will lead astronaut programme architecture, international partnerships, curriculum integration, and global participant engagement.

Initial experiences are expected to launch in the second half of 2026 and will include astronaut-inspired G-force training, aerobatic flight experiences, aviation handling programmes, and introductory space readiness experiences. Future phases are expected to expand into integrated multi-day astronaut training packages, advanced freefall systems, fast-jet experiences, and zero-gravity parabolic flight operations.

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About Ras Al Khaimah

Ras Al Khaimah (RAK), the UAE’s fourth largest Emirate, is defined by its natural beauty, rich heritage and forward-looking vision under HH Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi. Committed to sustainable growth, economic diversification and innovation, RAK is an attractive place to live, work and invest.

Strategically located within four hours of one third of the world’s population, RAK serves as a gateway to the Middle East and beyond. Its diversified economy sees no sector contribute more than 27% of GDP. The Emirate offers a competitive, business-friendly



environment with 100% foreign ownership, zero income tax and low corporate tax. Home to over 50,000 companies, supported by RAKEZ and Innovation City, RAK has held strong 'A' range credit ratings since 2008.

With a population of 0.4 million representing over 150 nationalities, RAK combines high quality of life with accessible luxury. Landmark hospitality projects in the pipeline include Wynn, Four Seasons and Nobu, added to the existing Waldorf Astoria and Ritz-Carlton, while RAK Central will redefine its commercial and residential landscape.

Year-round sunshine, competitive living costs and a dynamic lifestyle position Ras Al Khaimah as a land of opportunity.

About Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA)

The Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA) was established in May 2011 under the government of Ras Al Khaimah. RAKTDA aims to develop the Emirate's tourism infrastructure and establish Ras Al Khaimah as a world-class destination for leisure and business travel, creating sustainable investment opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for its residents. In order to achieve its goals, the Authority has a government mandate to license, regulate and monitor the Emirate's tourism and hospitality industry.

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About BLINC Space

Borderless Labs Inc. (BLINC) is revolutionizing space technology and entrepreneurship in the MENA region and beyond by fostering innovation, education, and collaboration. They are dedicated to creating a dynamic ecosystem that empowers aspiring entrepreneurs and space professionals through cutting-edge programs, strategic partnerships, and unparalleled opportunities for growth and development. Their initiatives aim to democratize access to space exploration and technology, driving economic growth and shaping a sustainable future for the region and beyond.

www.blincspace.com

About Action Flight Aviation LLC

Founded in New Zealand with a Red Bull-sponsored aerobatic legacy, Action Flight Aviation LLC has expanded to the UAE with a dual focus on adventure tourism and professional pilot training. Its tourism division offers elite bucket-list aviation experiences including hot air ballooning and skydiving to G-Force aerobatic flights in Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates, while VERTICAL UPRT delivers internationally mandated airline safety training.



www.actionflight.ae, www.vertical-uprt.ae