I have had the honor of working with Space Florida since the organization’s inception, and currently serve as the director of business development. It’s a challenging position, and I am responsible for initiating business development opportunities and partnerships that capture expansion activities and increase Florida’s aerospace industry market share. That’s a tall order for a man who was raised in Ireland and who fell in love with the space program at an early age. I count myself amongst the very lucky ones.

In the past, I initiated Space Florida Academy and Intern Programs, the Sub-Orbital Flight Incentive Program and the Space Florida — International Space Station (ISS) Research Competition. That was a most exciting project, resulting in seven scientific payloads flying to the space station.

As director of business development, I work to gather economic data, specifically as it relates to Florida’s growing aerospace industry. I also spearhead Space Florida’s Capital Acceleration Programs in efforts to raise venture capital within the state of Florida. To date, more than $84 million has been raised for participating Florida companies with the assistance of our partnering entity — the Florida Venture Forum.

I also lead Space Florida’s activities in the Florida-Israel Innovation Partnership, an international program with Israel that supports joint research and development, as well as commercialization efforts of aerospace and related technical projects.

Working here at Kennedy has been the highlight of my career. It has afforded me great opportunities and tough challenges, all of which I have welcomed. Who could want more than that?