Advancing Space: From LEO to Lunar and Beyond

The 2023 von Braun Space Exploration Symposium

October 25-27
Huntsville, Alabama

An American Astronautical Society Symposium
In conjunction with:
NASA Marshall Space Flight Center
National Space Club of Huntsville
University of Alabama Huntsville

American Astronautical Society
Imagine the Possibilities

The American Astronautical Society leads and advances the discussion around space.

Since 1954, AAS has been the premier network of current and future space professionals dedicated to advancing all space activities. The Society has long been recognized for the excellence of our national symposia, technical conferences, and publications and for our impact on shaping the U.S. space program. AAS members have opportunities to meet and connect with leaders in the space industry to exchange information and ideas, discuss career aspirations, and expand their knowledge and expertise.


Learn more at: astronomical.org
Wednesday, October 25

All times Central Daylight Time

7:30 am  Networking Breakfast

8:30 am  Opening Remarks
• Ron Birk, President, American Astronautical Society
• Charles Karr, President, University of Alabama Huntsville
• Joseph Pelfrey, Acting Director, NASA MSFC

8:50 am  Artemis: Planning and Executing for Mission Success
• Lakiesha Hawkins, Assistant Deputy Associate Administrator, Moon to Mars Program, NASA (Introduction)
• Joseph Pelfrey, Acting Director, NASA MSFC (Moderator)
• John Honeycutt, Manager, Space Launch Systems Program, NASA
• Howard Hu, Orion Program Manager, NASA Johnson
• Shawn Quinn, Program Manager, Exploration Ground Systems, NASA
• Jon Olansen, Gateway Program Manager, NASA
• Lisa Watson-Morgan, Human Landing System Program Manager, NASA

9:50 am  The AA Team: Leading the Way from Moon to Mars
• Kurt Vogel, Director of Space Architectures, NASA (Moderator)
• Ken Bowersox, Associate Administrator, Space Operations, NASA
• Prasun Desai, Associate Administrator, Space Technology Mission Directorate, NASA
• Nicola Fox, Associate Administrator, Science Mission Directorate, NASA
• Jim Free, Associate Administrator, Exploration Systems Development, NASA

10:50 am  Networking Break

11:10 am  Charting a Course: From Exploration to a Sustainable Cislunar Ecosystem
• Jim Myers, Senior Vice President, Aerospace Corporation (Moderator)
• Shane Canarday, International Partnerships, NASA
• Justin Cyrus, Chief Executive Officer, Lunar Outpost
• Jaime Stearns, Cislunar Lead, Air Force Research Laboratory
• Seamus Tuohy, Senior Director of Business Development, Robotics & Space Operations, MDA
• Niki Werkheiser, Director of Technology Maturation, NASA

12:10 pm  Luncheon Program with Awards
In Students Services Building
Luncheon Discussion
• Lisa Watson-Morgan, Human Landing System Program Manager, NASA (Moderator)
• John Couluris, Senior Vice President Lunar Transportation, Blue Origin
• Benji Reed, Senior Director of Human Spaceflight Programs, SpaceX

Luncheon Keynote
• Bill Nelson, Administrator, NASA

** Wednesday Program ends at 2:00pm
1:00 pm  **Pushing the Limits: Advances in Propulsion**
- **Mary Beth Koelbl**, Director, Engineering Directorate, NASA MSFC (Moderator)
- **Doug Bradley**, Program Manager, SLS RS-25, Aerojet Rocketdyne
- **Tabitha Dodson**, Program Manager, DARPA DRACO
- **Mark Fisher**, Program Manager, New Glenn BE-4 Main Engine, Blue Origin
- **Eric Paulson**, Program Manager, Rotating Detonation Rocket Engine, Air Force Research Laboratory
- **Jason Turpin**, Senior Technical Leader of Propulsion, NASA MSFC

2:00 pm  **The Digital Transformation Toolbox**
- **Ed McLarney**, Lead for Transformation Integration and AI/ML, Transformation and Data Division, NASA CIO (Moderator)
- **Virgil Hutchinson**, Senior Director, Sector Chief Engineering, Northrop Grumman
- **Ron Keesing**, Senior Vice President for Technology Integration, Leidos
- **Lee Wilbur**, Managing Director, Deloitte
- **Ana Wooley**, Assistant Professor, University of Alabama Huntsville

3:00 pm  **Networking Break**

3:20 pm  **Cosmic Communicators: The Vital Role of Space Media**
- **Kristina Hendrix**, Vice President for Strategic Communications, University of Alabama Huntsville (Moderator)
- **Marcia Dunn**, Aerospace Writer, Associated Press
- **Jeff Foust**, Senior Staff Writer, SpaceNews
- **Lee Roop**, Reporter, AL.com

4:00 pm  **A Balancing Act: Early Career Workforce Perspectives**
- **Mallory James**, Aerospace Engineer, NASA MSFC (Moderator)
- **Alex Bernhardt**, Thermal Fluids Analyst, Sierra Lobo Inc.
- **Brandon Burroughs**, Business Development Lead, In-Space Propulsion, The Boeing Company
- **Ashley Kowalski**, Project Leader, International Partnerships, Aerospace Corporation
- **Avery Webb**, Space Software Systems Engineer, Argo Navis Technologies

4:50 pm  **CanSat 2023 Winner Presentation**
- **AfterBurner**, University of Alabama Huntsville

5:00 pm  **Keynote Speaker**
- **Destin Sandlin**, Host, Smarter Every Day

5:30 pm  **Reception and Student Poster Contest**

*In Student Services Building*

**Thursday Program ends at 7:30pm**
Friday, October 27

8:00 am  Networking Breakfast
9:00 am  Macauley Award Presentation
  • Kanak Parmar, Auburn University
9:10 am  Exploration Enabling Science
  • Dayna Ise, Deputy Manager, Science and Technology Office, NASA MSFC (Moderator)
  • Rob Chambers, Director, Business Development, Commercial Civil Space, Lockheed Martin
  • Brett Denevi, Planetary Scientist, Johns Hopkins University APL
  • Joel Kearns, Deputy Associate Administrator for Exploration, Science Mission Directorate, NASA
  • Renee Weber, Chief Scientist, NASA MSFC
10:10 am  Cash or Credit? New Contracting Approaches in Space
  • Wayne Hale, Director of Human Spaceflight/Director of Energy Services, Special Aerospace Services LLC (Moderator)
  • John Cannaday, Director, Office of Procurement, NASA MSFC
  • Rob Chambers, Director, Business Development, Commercial Civil Space, Lockheed Martin
  • Trent Martin, Vice President of Lunar Access, Intuitive Machines
  • Nathan O’Konek, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Redwire Space
  • Kelly Page, President, Barrios Technology
11:10 am  Networking Break
11:30 am  Macauley Award Presentation
  • David McCord, Harvard Kennedy School
11:40 am  Commercialization of Space: Business Discussion
  • Hank Alewine, Associate Professor of Accounting, University of Alabama Huntsville (Moderator)
  • Dan Hendrickson, Vice President of Business Development, Astrobotic
  • Ken Shields, Senior Director Business Development of In-Space R&D, Manufacturing, Emerging Markets, Sierra Space
  • Jana Spruce, Vice President of Spacecraft, Firefly Aerospace
  • Daniel Tani, Former Astronaut and Director of Business Development Operations, Northrop Grumman
12:40 pm  Luncheon Keynote and Awards Presentation
  In Student Services Building
  • Michael D. Griffin, Co-President, LogiQ, Inc.

** Friday Program ends at 2:00pm
Thank you to the 2023 Planning Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:

Bobby Watkins – Barrios Technology
Freida Lowery – NASA Marshall Space Flight Center

Jeramie Broadway – NASA Marshall Space Flight Center
Dave Burks – The Boeing Company
Jerry Cook – Deloitte
Jacqueline Cortese – Blue Origin
Debbie Batson – Teledyne Brown Engineering
Jason Greene – UAH
Lauren Holt – Northrop Grumman
Fred Jue – Aerojet Rocketdyne
Sam Kapreilian – Deloitte
Tom Koshut – UAH
Tracy Lamm – Lockheed Martin
Darin Lindon – KBR
Omar Mahmoud – Redwire
Lisa Mitchell – Jacobs

Mayra Montrose – L3Harris
Bruce Morris – SierraSpace
Kathy Nado – NASA
Mary Occhipinti – Moog
Liana Porte – AAS
Charles Scales – Sierra Lobo
Frank Slazer
Charlie Stegemoeller – AAS / Leidos
Rich Sturmels – Aerospace Corporation
Marta Szotakova – AAS
Dale Thomas – UAH
Mike Ward – Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville and Madison County
Jim Way – AAS
Lisa Wood – Ball Aerospace

Thank you for attending the von Braun Space Exploration Symposium!

Please join us at our next event:

61st Annual Goddard Space Sciences Symposium
astronautical.org/goddard
March 20-22, 2024 – College Park, MD

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AAS has long been recognized for the excellence of its national meetings, technical meetings, symposia, and publications and for their impact on shaping the U.S. space program. Members have opportunities to meet with leaders in their field and in related disciplines, exchange information and ideas, discuss career aspirations and expand their knowledge and expertise.

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