



As of 5/20/26

Friday, June 5

Registration

8:00 am - 7:00 pm

Foyer

Morning Plenary

8:30 am - 9:45 am

International BC

INVESTORS PANEL: *Founders on the Future of the Emerging Cis-lunar Economy*

PANELISTS: Michael J. Laine (Liftport Group), Lisa La Bonté (Carnegie Ventures), Fahad Alhussein (Nadir Space Partners/Kauffman Fellows), Djoudie Etoundi-Essomba (EA Partners), and Daniel Faber (Space Arena/OrbitFab)

MODERATOR: Thomas Andrew Olson, Executive Director, Center for Space Commerce and Finance, host of the podcast *The Unknown Quantity*

Commercial space has morphed into a \$630B industry that's growing rapidly. New startups in all areas of the space enterprise are springing up around the world. SpaceX is going for a \$2T IPO, and billions more are being committed to AI data centers in orbit and to housing humans on the Moon. This diverse panel, representing Founders who have invested from North America, Africa, the Middle East, and Australia, will discuss what the future holds and how much time will it take, realistically. Who are the next market visionaries to find and forge pathways to a vibrant and abundant cis-lunar economy?

Student Registration

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

International A

Registration for students in the NSS Gerard K. O'Neill Space Settlement Contest and the *Live in a Healthy Space* Design Competition.

NextGen Program

10:00 am - 10:45 am

International BC

TITLE: *Stories from Space*

FEATURED SPEAKER: Robert "Hoot" Gibson, Former NASA Chief Astronaut

MC: Holly Melear, CEO/Founder, STEAMSPACE Education Outreach and Cities in Space Events

Join former NASA astronaut Hoot Gibson as he discusses his path to space and some of the "good and bad" events from his five missions.

Exhibitors

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Atrium

Please visit the exhibitors and sponsors tables.

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Morning Sessions

Interstellar

Statler (lower level)

10:00 am

Inauguration of Interstellar Track. Isaac Arthur and Dr. Pascal Lee (National Space Society)

10:05 am

Generation Ships: The Giant Approach to Interstellar Travel. Isaac Arthur (National Space Society)

10:25 am

Interstellar Travel Enabled by Artificially Intelligent Android Astronauts. Dr. Pascal Lee (SETI Institute)

10:45 am

Interstellar Settlement via Android Astronauts and Human Cloning. Leo Shiina (Stanford Online High School)

11:00 am

The Cloning Frontier: Redefining Risk in Long-Duration Space Exploration. Dr. Erik Seedhouse (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)

11:15 am

Review of Carbonaceous Allotropes and their Application as Photonic Sail Materials. Joseph Meany (Interstellar Research Group)

11:30 am

Maintaining Mutual Intelligibility Over Deep Time. Mark Cochran (Public Capital Foundation)

11:45 am

Open Forum: Making Interstellar Travel Happen. Moderators: Isaac Arthur and Dr. Pascal Lee (National Space Society)

Space Business

Dallas

10:00 am

Space Capital: The Tipping Point of a New Frontier. Roseanne Healy (Enterprise Corporation)

10:30 am

Programmable Finance in Orbit: How Smart Capital Could Power the Space Economy. James Anthony Wolff (Greenspoon Marder LLP)

11:00 am

Building Empires in the Sky: The Legal Frameworks for Safeguarding Property Rights and Interests in Off-Earth Assets, Territory and Areas of Operations. Camisha Simmons (Simmons Legal PLLC)

11:30 am

An Interactive Commercial Space Station Cost Simulator. Jim Plaxco (Chicago Society for Space Studies)



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|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Space Settlement</b>            |  |
| 10:00 am                           |  |
| 11:00 am                           |  |
| 11:30 am                           |  |
| <b>Space Solar Power Symposium</b> |  |
| 10:00 am                           |  |
| 10:20 am                           |  |
| 10:40 am                           |  |
| 11:00 am                           |  |
| 11:20 am                           |  |
| 11:40 am                           |  |

**Beverly**

Updates on the Rotating Space Settlement Design Project. Dale Skran (National Space Society)  
 Designing Farms in Space: Balances for Life Support, Food and Settlement. Latest Technologies for Closing the Mass Flow Loop in Space Settlements. Bryce Meyer (St. Louis Space Frontier)  
 Settlements in Space. Jerry Stone (Spaceflight UK)

**Amphitheater (lower level)**

SPACE Canada 2026 International Space Solar Power Student Competition  
 Haroon Oqab (SPACE Canada)

- Space Solar Power Student Competition Competitor #1
- Space Solar Power Student Competition Competitor #2
- Space Solar Power Student Competition Competitor #3
- Space Solar Power Student Competition Competitor #4
- Space Solar Power Student Competition Competitor #5
- Space Solar Power Student Competition Competitor #6

**Student Activities**

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Continental B**

STEM activities with NSS SpacEdge Education. Engage in team building, engineering, critical thinking, and prototyping. Three sessions: 11:00/12:30/2:00.

**Lunch**

12:00 noon - 1:50 pm

**International BC**

TITLE: *100 Years of Aviation and Only 30 of Space... What Gives!?*  
 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Jeffrey Manber, Special Representative to the Chairman and CEO, Voyager Technologies  
 MC: Camisha L. Simmons, Principal | Managing Member, Simmons Legal PLLC.

**Student Activities**

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

**Fowler (lower level)**

Mini Space Elevator Workshop. Engineering with World Space Elevator Competitions for middle and high school students.

**Poster Session**

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm  
 (International A closed during lunch: 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm)

**International A**

Contest students' posters on display with the student presenters representing entries in the NSS Gerard K. O'Neill Space Settlement Contest and the *Live in a Healthy Space* Design Competition.

**2:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Planetary Defense</b> |  |
| 2:00 pm                  |  |
| 2:05 pm                  |  |
| 2:18 pm                  |  |
| 2:34 pm                  |  |
| 2:47 pm                  |  |
| 3:00 pm                  |  |
| 3:16 pm                  |  |
| 3:29 pm                  |  |
| 3:42 pm                  |  |
| 3:55 pm                  |  |
| 4:08 pm                  |  |
| 4:23 pm                  |  |

**Afternoon Sessions**

**Statler (lower level)**

- Opening Remarks: The ISDC Planetary Defense Program, "Look Up: It's an Asteroid." Nancy C. Wolfson (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics)
- Exploring NEO Types, Orbits, and Impacts. Stevan Akerley (National Space Society Space Ambassador)
- Lessons from 2024 YR4: The Role of JWST and Space Telescopes in Planetary Defense. Dr. Andrew Rivkin (Johns Hopkins University)
- Financing Planetary Defense: Legal and Capital Frameworks for Asteroid Risk Mitigation. James Anthony Wolff (Greenspoon Marder LLP)
- Novel Opportunistic Missions for NEO Exploration. Madhu Thangavelu (University of Southern California)
- From Transients to Threats: Leveraging Astrophysical Surveys for Planetary Defense. Dr. Quanzhi Ye (University of Maryland)
- Asteroid Impact Protection Long-term Solution. Michael Helton (Helton Associates)
- Improving Orbit Determination for Planetary Defense. Maryann Benny Fernandes (Duke University)
- Modern Day Space Elevators — New Missions for Planetary Defense. Dr. Peter Swan (International Space Elevator Consortium)
- The International Year of Planetary Defence (IYPD 2029): Navigating the Roles of IAWN, SMPAG, and UN-COPUOS. Nancy C. Wolfson (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics)
- NSS Student Space Settlement Contest Presentation
- Disarming Nuclear Inventories and Preventing NEO Impacts. Ayden Frey (Wolfpack CubeSat Development Team)

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|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 4:36 pm                            | Why Post-Quantum Security is Non-Negotiable for Space Systems and Planetary Defense. Dr. Wolfgang Rohde (CyberSpace Security)   |
| 4:49 pm                            | TERP RAPTOR: A "Mass"ive Improvement in Asteroid Mass Measurements for Planetary Defense. Adrienne Rudolph (University of Maryland)   |
| 5:02 pm                            | A Tale of Two Asteroids: Chelyabinsk 2013 and Apophis 2029. Ken Ruffin (Didymos Consulting LLC)   |
| 5:15 pm                            | Orbital Sunk-Cost Recovery: Converting High Energy Scrap into Comprehensive Planetary Defense Infrastructure. Lev Reznikov (Sagittarius Space)  |
| 5:28 pm                            | Can AI-Driven Autonomous Orbital Debris Capture and Collision Prevention Networks Bolster Planetary Defense? Harsh Verma (Defence Institute of Advanced Technology)                         |
| 5:41 pm                            | We're All Going To Die! (The Case for Urgency). Jerry Stone (Spaceflight UK)  |
| 5:54 pm                            | Closing Remarks. Nancy C. Wolfson (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics)  |
| <b>Space Business</b>              |   |
| 2:00 pm                            | Invested in Impact: Purpose Driven Space Companies Boosting International Development. Lisa La Bonté (Carnegie Ventures)  |
| 3:00 pm                            | The Lunar Space Elevator: From Research to Revenue. Michael J. Laine (LiftPort Group)   |
| 3:30 pm                            | From Prototype to Orbit: Building a Space Company the Hard Way (and Why That's an Advantage). Joe Latrell (Quub, Inc.)  |
| 4:00 pm                            | Solving the Space Access Bottleneck with Business Logic. Mordy Friedman (World Space Elevator Competitions)   |
| 4:30 pm                            | Operational Trust as Infrastructure for Deep Space and Interstellar Missions. Irina Litchfield (ALTAra)   |
| 5:00 pm                            | From Orbital Debris Mitigation to Circular Space Infrastructure: Designing Scalable Stewardship in Low Earth Orbit. Sandy Therrien (Blue Moon Space Operations)                             |
| 5:30 pm                            | Three Keys to Winning Space Contracts. Doug Owens (Space Outcomes LLC)  |
| <b>Space Settlement</b>            |   |
| 2:00 pm                            | Innovative Design for Efficient Artificial Gravity in Long Duration Space Missions. Muhammed Marzooq (University of Calicut)  |
| 2:30 pm                            | No Blueprint for the Moon: Fascinations and Risks of Lunar Architecture. Dr. Caitlin Ahrens (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center)  |
| 3:30 pm                            | NSS Student Space Settlement Contest Presentation   |
| 3:45 pm                            | ISRU Construction Activities for Sustainable Lunar and Martian Settlement. Melodie Yashar (AENARA)  |
| 4:45 pm                            | NSS Student Space Settlement Contest Presentation   |
| 5:00 pm                            | System and Sustainability Determinants of Life in Space: A Framework for Human Health and Sustainable Settlements Beyond Earth. Dr. Jennifer Young (University of the Cumberland)           |
| 5:30 pm                            | Making Space Human-Friendly with Artificial Gravity. Jules Ross (Joules Space Technology)   |
| <b>Space Solar Power Symposium</b> |   |
| 2:00 pm                            | Japanese Space Solar Power. Koji Tanaka (JAXA)  |
| 2:20 pm                            | Topics in Space Solar Power. Massimiliano Vasile (University of Strathclyde)  |
| 2:40 pm                            | Space Solar Power in Australia. Serdar Baycan (Solar Space Technologies)  |
| 3:00 pm                            | Two Decades of China's Space Solar Power Development. Xinbin Hou (CAST)   |
| 3:20 pm                            | Space Solar Power at TerraSpark. Sanjay Vijendran (TerraSpark)  |
| 3:40 pm                            | Results of the 2024-2026 Space Solar Power Study. John C. Mankins (Mankins Space Technology)  |
| 5:45 pm                            | Closing Remarks. John C. Mankins (Mankins Space Technology) and Gary Barnhard (Xtraordinary Innovative Space Partnerships)  |
| <b>Rising Stars</b>                |   |
| 2:00 pm                            | <b>Amphitheater</b> (lower level)<br>Welcome and Introductions. Burt Dicht (National Space Society) and Robert Katz (World Innovation Network)<br>Block 1: Space Policy, Law and Governance |
| 2:10 pm                            | Regulatory Sandboxes as a Governance Tool for the Emerging Space Economy: Lessons from Energy and FinTech. Dr. Zsófia Bíró (Center for Air and Space Law, University of Mississippi)        |
| 2:25 pm                            | Right of Way Rules: Driving the Future of Orbital Traffic. Ashling Sugarman (Pepperdine Law School)   |
| 2:40 pm                            | Governing Autonomy: Legal and Ethical Frameworks for AI in Space Activities. Margaret O'Brien (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)  |

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|         |  |
|---------|--|
|         | Block 2: Space Science and Technology  |
| 2:55 pm | A Bright Idea: Why Astronomy Needs Space-Based Solar Power. Benjamin Calloway (Photon Orbital Solutions)   |
| 3:10 pm | The Story of HPSC: How Space Communication Powers NASA's Space Exploration Missions. Jessica Mariane Jelke (NASA and The George Washington University)                                       |
| 3:25 pm | Inspection of Non-Cooperative Resident Space Objects in Low Earth Orbit. Rachel Long (Mars Institute and University of California, Davis)  |
| 3:40 pm | US-LACSA: Building a Cooperative Security Architecture for Space Resilience in the Western Hemisphere. Mo Tasrif Khan (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)                                 |
|         | Block 3: Space Exploration and Future Missions   |
| 3:55 pm | WolfSat-2: A Sustainable Wooden CubeSat Design for Very Low Earth Orbit. Santiago N. Gollarza (Wolfpack CubeSat Dev team, BLUECUBE Aerospace)  |
| 4:10 pm | Preliminary Pressurized Rover Traverse Paths from Clavius Crater to the NASA LCROSS Impact Site in Cabeus Crater Near the Lunar South Pole. Apoorva Somani (United States Air Force Academy) |
| 4:25 pm | Exploring Mars: From Rotorcraft Mission Payloads to Human Exploration Operations. Reef Collins (Mars Institute and University of Central Florida)  |
| 4:40 pm | Pathways on Mars: Designing Pressurized Rover Traverse Paths Around the "Noctis Landing" Candidate Human Landing Site. Scarlett Hartzman (Mars Institute and Carnegie Mellon University)     |
|         | Block 4: Space Health, Learning and Impact   |
| 4:55 pm | From Chernobyl to the Cosmos: Can Fungi Protect Astronauts? Natalie Byrd (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)  |
| 5:10 pm | Insulin in Orbit: A Mission Worth Testing. Kennady Ruth (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)   |
| 5:25 pm | Astronauts' Cognitive Maps: Evolving Identity through the Chronospatial Frontiers. Ginger Chen (Florida Institute of Technology)   |
| 5:40 pm | Final Thoughts and Recognition. Burt Dicht (National Space Society) and Robert Katz (World Innovation Network)   |

**Podcast**

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**Istanbul**

*This Week in Space Podcast*

Join Rod Pyle, Editor-in-Chief of *Ad Astra* magazine, and Tariq Malik, Editor-in-Chief of Space.com, as they sit down with Gerry Griffin, former Apollo Flight Director, former Deputy Director of Kennedy Space Center, and former Director of Johnson Space Center, for a wide-ranging conversation about the Apollo program, the early shuttle program, what it was like to rise to the top of a NASA field center, and Gerry's very busy life in business and public service ever since.

**NextGen Program**

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**International BC**

TITLE: *Human Exploration of Mars*

FEATURED SPEAKER: Dr. Pascal Lee, Planetary Scientist, SETI Institute; Co-Founder and Chairman, Mars Institute; and Director, Haughton-Mars Project at NASA Ames Research Center, and NSS Vice President for Planetary Development

MC: Holly Melear, CEO/Founder, STEAMSPACE Education Outreach and Cities in Space Events

**Networking Reception**

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**International A**

Join us for an open reception that includes a cash bar and appetizers.

**Governors' Dinner**

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

**International BC**

TITLE: *Apollo and Artemis: Leadership is the Key*

FIRESIDE CHAT: Gerry Griffin, former Apollo Flight Director, and former Director of the Johnson Space Center and Rod Pyle, NSS Director of Communications, space author, and Editor-in-Chief, *Ad Astra* Magazine

Governors' Message: Col. Karlton D. Johnson, USAF (Ret.), NSS Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, NSS Board of Governors

Presenting of NSS Chris Pancratz Activist of the Year Award

Presenting of NSS Excellence Awards

Presenting of NSS Distinguished Service Merit Award

MC: Isaac Arthur, Host and Executive Producer, *Science & Futurism with Isaac Arthur* on YouTube and NSS President

Dinner Sponsored by the Heinlein Prize Trust

**NSS Meeting**

10:00 pm - Till

NSS Networking