



Challenges and Opportunities Facing New Space Actors

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Speaker Biographies

Mr. Jean-Michel Eid, Managing Director, Space Partnership International (SPI)

Mr. Eid is currently a managing director of Space Partnership International, LLC. He has extensive domestic and international business experience in space-related industry sectors, and in developing and managing key cross-cultural business relationships at government, civil, and commercial levels. Most recently, Mr. Eid's focus has been on providing business development, financial, and risk management services for the investment community, the Ex-Im bank, and a number of satellite operators in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe where he helped develop business strategies and risk management approaches surrounding orbital slot acquisitions, core and non-core services, five-year and ten-year business plans for existing and new services.

Mr. Eid began his career with Arianespace marketing the Ariane family of launch vehicles to U.S.-based telecomm companies. Subsequent to Ariane, Mr. Eid was engaged in space insurance and risk management activities with International Space Brokers, and later as managing director of Aon Space. In this role he provided risk management programs to develop and price unique insurance programs for customers all over the world and spear-headed the development of risk management insurance products for non-traditional space risks in areas such as space tourism, and orbital recovery programs. In all, Mr. Eid has been integrally involved in more than 98 risk management / insurance programs with established and new entrepreneurial service providers and satellite operators.

Mr. Eid holds an M.B.A. degree in international finance from George Washington University and a B.S. in business administration from Georgetown University.

Dr. Rich Leshner, Director of Government Affairs, Planet Labs

Dr. Leshner is the Director of Government Affairs for Planet Labs. He has been working in the Washington D.C. space policy community for 15 years, with experience in the non-profit, government, and industry sectors. During his time at NASA, Dr. Leshner worked on international projects for collaboration in space exploration, managing a \$150 million portfolio of innovative small business research, and in the administrator's office. He worked for two years at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he supported the development of the 2010 National Space Policy.

Dr. Leshner earned a Master of Science in aeronautics and astronautics from Stanford University, and a PhD in public policy and public administration from George Washington University.

Mr. Philippe Moreels, Head of Strategy and Business Development, Astroscale

Mr. Moreels currently leads the Strategy and Business Development division at Astroscale, a Singapore-based company developing disruptive spacecraft end-of-life (EOL) disposal solutions for satellite operators who want to operate in a safe and sustainable space environment. He is responsible for implementing the company's strategic and business plans, for establishing global strategic partnerships and for overseeing the products and services development.

Prior to joining Astroscale, Mr. Moreels was deputy director of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), where he built solid industry expertise in areas such as space policy, satellite systems and applications, as well as launch services. He holds a master's degree in management and entrepreneurship from the University of Lille and a master's of business administration from Hult International Business School.

Dr. Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan, Senior Fellow and Head of Nuclear and Space Policy Initiative, Observer Research Foundation

Dr. Rajagopalan joined ORF as a senior fellow and as head of its Nuclear and Space Policy Initiative after a five-year stint at the National Security Council Secretariat (2003-2007), where she was an assistant director.

Dr. Rajagopalan is the author/ editor of five books including Nuclear Security in India (2015), and Iran Nuclear Deal: Implications of the Framework Agreement (2015). Her research articles have appeared in edited volumes, and in peer-reviewed journals such as India Review, Strategic Studies Quarterly, Air and Space Power Journal, International Journal of Nuclear Law, Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, Strategic Analysis and CLAWS Journal. She has also been invited to speak at international fora including the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space COPUOS, Conference on Disarmament, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum, and the European Union. Dr. Rajagopalan has also lectured at Indian military and policy institutions such as the Defence Service and Staff College (Wellington), National Defence College (New Delhi), Army War College(Mhow), and the Foreign Service Institute (New Delhi).