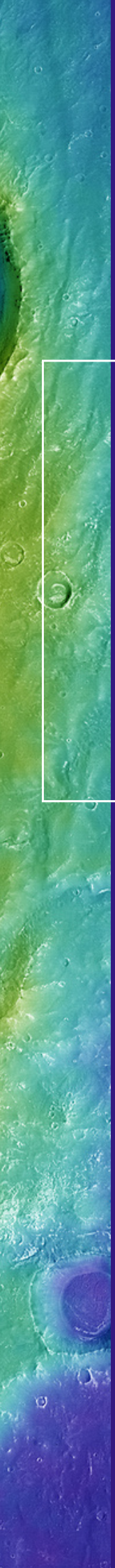

Switch to Space 2

The most comprehensive event about the career opportunities in the Space sector

5 - 14 October 2020

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About

"For a long time, we dreamt of going to the moon, sending satellites around the Earth, robots on Mars and exploring the universe with telescopes … many were failures but enthusiasm, determination, perseverance led to success! Tomorrow, maybe it will be you who discovers new life changing materials, a new energy, a planet similar to the Earth… Maybe you will be the one to open a new door…. to go ever further to explore our universe! "Switch to Space", the key that opens the paths of the possible!"

Dominique Tilmans

Almost every sector today is linked to Space! As the sector becomes increasingly multidisciplinary, it requires new professionals from almost every field. The impressive development of Space Applications has lead to lots of new job opportunities in many different fields, some of which include Agronomy, Biology, Chemistry, HR, Finance, IT, Medicine, Physics, Law, Management etc. “Switch to Space II” is your opportunity to interact with and listen to presentations by professionals and industry leaders and acquire new knowledge that will be an invaluable resource in helping to build your career in the space sector.

Our event is targeted towards students, and young professionals who are interested in developing a career in the space sector. Most students do not think of undertaking studies in relation to space. Furthermore, universities do not provide students with an overview of the numerous domains, specialisations and career prospects and possibilities in the sector. Our event is aimed at those who seek to get insights on this, directly.

Programme

Topic 1

Political & Legal Framework
5 October 2020 16:30 - 19:00 CET

We are living in a space society

When humans go to space, it's not because it is easy but because they choose to. The very recent foray of humans in space is only 63 years old and was born in the cold conflict of ideologies. As such, politics and policies have always been linked to space ventures. However, recent years have seen the rise of many more diversified actors such as small businesses with smaller and more commercially competitive satellites. At the same time, state actors have taken a stronger stance on acknowledging space as a new field of operation as the Americans made clear with the inauguration of a "Space Force" or France with a new Space Command. Seen as a new Far West by some, regulations and laws in space are, at best, loose and at worst, nonexistent. The new paradigm of a closer, unclaimed and more accessible space environment calls for new policies that would prevent the uncontrolled consequences stemming from the massive arrival of new actors. With an orbit plane that gets more and more crowded every day, 21st century Earth is at a key turning point and we must decide what we want the future to look like. Because if we do indeed choose to go to space, we must do it well. And it will be hard.

Speakers

Chair
Sarah Moens
Lead lawyer at DLA Piper

Sarah Moens is a lead lawyer at DLA Piper in Brussels and has expertise in public and administrative law, with a particular interest in litigation matters and public procurement. Furthermore, she is experienced in space law and drones law. She is a Board Member of the European Centre for Space Law and an elected member of the International Institute of Space Law. Sarah also guves guest lectures on drones law and space law at various universities such as Université Paris-Sud XI (Paris, France), Universiteit Leiden (Leiden, The Netherlands), Universiteit Gent (Ghent, Belgium) and during specialized summer courses. Furthermore, she is a speaker at national and international conferences. She is author of legal articles on drones law and space law.

Space Traffic Management - Paving the Way or Establishing Dominance?
Ward Munters
Assistant Coordinator Space Law, Policy, Business and Management, Master of Space Studies, KU Leuven, Belgium

Ward is a doctoral researcher and teaching assistant in public international law at the Institute for International Law and Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies at the KU Leuven, Belgium. He is an assistant coordinator for Space Law, Policy, Business and Management in the Master of Space Studies, an advanced master's programme organised co-jointly by the KU Leuven and the University of Ghent. Ward focuses on space debris, space object collisions and space traffic management. His research aims to uncover fruitful theoretical perspectives on orbital space law at the nexus between age-old terrestrial legal logic and astronautical reality of orbital space.

Overcrowding the Orbit: Which Impact for Astronomical Observation?

Andrew Williams

External Relations, Executive Office of the Director-General

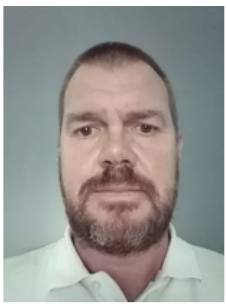
Dr Andrew Williams is External Relations Officer at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) - an intergovernmental organisation of 16 Member States that constructs and operates world-leading astronomical facilities and fosters international cooperation. Andrew supports strategic relationships with current and future Member States, the EU, and international organisations such as the UN. Prior to ESO he worked as senior policy advisor for NATO and as a physicist for the UK government. He holds degrees in physics and public policy.

The next war will reach Space. Why defending the peaceful use of outer space has never been so relevant for NATO, for Europe and for Belgium

Nicolas Gérôme

Head of Space-based Capabilities at Belgian Defense

Since 2018: Space-based Capabilities @ Strategy Department (BE MoD). 2016-2018: Network architect for territorial & deployed Networks (BE MoD)2013-2016: Business Development Defense & Intelligence sector (Luciad NV)2008-2013: Program Manager for Geospatial & Imagery Intelligence Systems (BE MoD)2004-2008: Flight Electronics & Project manager Classified Networks (BE MoD)StudiesAdvanced Staff Course (Defence College) & post-graduates in applied geomatics, big data analytics & space mission designRoyal Military Academy Brussels, telecom engineer.



WRC 2019: New Radiofrequencies Management for Short Duration Missions.

Michael Vandroogenbroek

Strategic cell – Scarce Resources IBPT

I am an engineer with almost 25 years experience within BIPT. BIPT is the regulatory body responsible for regulating the electronic communications market, the postal market, and the electromagnetic spectrum of radio frequencies.I am currently responsible for the spectrum strategy and the authorizations of public mobile operators.I have been Deputy Head of the Belgian Delegation at world radiocommunication conferences since 1997.

Topic 2

Life Science and Microgravity
6 October 2020 16:30 - 19:00 CET

Moon, Mars here we come!

Houston, we need a scientist! After millions of years of evolution, the human body has fully adapted to terrestrial conditions. This also means that many changes arise when astronauts spend time in space conditions, and it teaches us a lot about our physiology. Space is also more than just weightlessness and radiation. It presents many challenges to sustain life: confinement, isolation, nutrition, circadian rhythm, heavy workload, etc. It is also necessary to develop new life support systems that do not rely on frequent resupplies to provide oxygen, water, and food. All these challenges need to be addressed to prepare future interplanetary missions to the Moon and Mars.

- What happens to the human body in microgravity?
- Before going to Mars, how to increase radiation resistance in astronauts?
- Rotifers in space, what can we learn from them?
- Supporting life in space: Bacterial production of Oxygen.

Chair
Jeremy Rabineau
Aerospace Engineer

Aerospace Engineer from ISAE-Supaéro (France) now enrolled in a PhD in Space Physiology at Université Libre de Bruxelles. Jérémy already had the opportunity to work on several experiments for the ISS and is passionate about the human aspects of space exploration. Beside this, he is also president of the student chapter of the European Low-Gravity Research Association (ELGRA).

Chair
Kevin Tabury
Scientific collaborator SCK CEN

Kevin Tabury is a junior scientist at the Radiobiology Unit of SCK CEN where he is leading Hadron radiation related projects in the context of Space and Radiotherapy research. Prior his function as junior scientist, he acquired almost 10 years of technical expertise as lab technician. He is also currently combining his position as junior scientist with a PhD at the University of South Carolina, USA.

What happens to the human body in microgravity?
Vladimir Pletser
Director of Space Training Operations, Blue Abys

Degrees in Mechanical Engineering, M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Physics (UCLouvain) Previously: Visiting Professor, Centre for Space Utilization, Chinese Academy Sciences, Beijing, supporting microgravity research for parabolic flights and Chinese Space Station; Senior Physicist – Engineer for 30 years at ESA-ESTEC, developing microgravity payloads (Spacelab, ISS) and responsible of parabolic flight programme (7350 parabolas, 39h30m of 0g, equivalent to 26 Earth orbits).

Before going to Mars, how to increase radiation resistance in astronauts
Bjorn Baselet
Scientific Collaborator, SCK CEN

Bjorn Baselet obtained his MSc in Biomedical Sciences at the Hasselt University in 2013. Afterwards he performed a joint PhD in the field of vascular problems after radiation exposure at UCL and SCK CEN. From 2017 onwards, Bjorn joined the Radiobiology Unit of the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK CEN) where he is coordinating different ESA funded space biology projects, thereby investigating the impact of (simulated) space conditions on human health.

Rotifers in space, what can we learn from them?
Karine Van Doninck
Full professor at UNamur

During a postdoctoral stay (2003-2006) in the laboratory of Prof. Matthew Meselson at Harvard University (USA), Karine Van Doninck discovered the bdelloid rotifers, unique microscopic animals being extremely resistant to freezing, desiccation and ionizing radiation. In September 2007, she became an Associate Professor at the University of Namur and founded the Laboratory of Evolutionary Genetics and Ecology (LEGE), where she continues to study the resistance and asexual evolution of bdelloid rotifers. In September 2009, she was awarded the grade of Professor at UNamur and in 2017 Full Professor. The bdelloid rotifers are the model systems of her European projects ERC CoG and ESA and in December 2019 they were launched to ISS for the first mission out of three selected by ESA.

Supporting life in space: Bacterial productionn of Oxygen
Baptiste Leroy
Assistant professor - U Mons

Baptiste Leroy is studying bacterial metabolism at the University of Mons. He specialised recently in the analysis of nitrogen metabolism in cyanobacteria and carbon metabolism in purple bacteria. His activities currently englobe fundamental research through omics and molecular analyses as well as terrestrial application of bioprocesses.

Topic 3

Out of this world technologies
7 October 2020 16:30 - 19:00 CET

Out of this world technologies
From satellites, to launchers, space stations, telecommunications, and science instruments: the space sector is full of innovative and state-of-the-art technologies that need engineers and graduates with technological backgrounds. Topic 3 will show you some of these technologies that Belgian companies are developing.

- To Jupiter and Back Again

The challenges of communication at a distance of 900 million kilometers

- Getting Humans back to the Moon

About building satellites and critical systems to return to the Moon

- System Integration from A (nalysis) to Z (ero-G)

The ins and outs of the design, development and verification of electro-optical payloads

- State-of-the-art Instruments to Understand our Universe and Protect our Planet

How large telescopes and incredibly accurate optics for space missions are designed and built

Chair
Michael François

Michael holds a Master in electro-mechanical engineering from University of Louvain-La-Neuve and has been active in space since 20 years. After 8 years working in Belgian space industries dealing with communication systems for low earth orbit satellites, space station payloads development or GPS/Galileo high precision receiver development, he joined the European Space Agency Technology Center (ESA/ESTEC) as project controller for small technology mission developments, in particular the first accurate dual spacecraft formation flying mission. He moved then to optical instrument development management for earth observation missions. He was in charge of the Vegetation payload on board the PROBA-V satellite developed by a Belgian industrial consortium and launched in 2013 or the development of a compact hyperspectral payload for small satellite. He is currently managing the development of the FLORIS instrument on board the ESA mission named FLEX as FLuorescence EXplorer, a world premiere complex optical instrument to quantify the photosynthesis activity from the vegetation by observing the photo induced fluorescence. He is involved in many technical committees related to current or future Earth Observation optical missions.

To Jupiter and Back Again: The Challenges of Communication at a Distance of 900 Million Kilometers
Mattias Genbrugge
Project Manager at Antwerp Space

Mattias Genbrugge is an Engineering Project Manager responsible for the Communication Subsystem of the JUICE Spacecraft (Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer). JUICE is the first large-class mission in ESA's Cosmic Vision 2015-2025 program and planned for launch in 2022.

Getting Humans back to the Moon: About Building Satellites and Critical Systems to Return to the Moon
Stijn Ilsen
Project Manager and Spacecraft Operations System Engineer at QinetiQ

Stijn Ilsen graduated as Master of Science in aerospace engineering (2004). He did his master thesis at the European Space Agency, after which he joined Airbus to work on the European space telescope Herschel, throughout testing in Europe and the launch in Kourou. Since >10 years, Stijn is working at QinetiQ, in Kruibeke, where he is a Project Manager working on the Belgian PROBA satellites. He also wrote a children's book about space, titled: Reis naar de sterren.

State-of-the-art instruments to understand our Universe and protect our Planet
How large telescopes and incredibly accurate optics for space missions are designed and built
Philippe Gilson
CEO at AMOS

Philippe Gilson is an aerospace engineer from ULiège, and holds an MBA from INSEAD. Prior to becoming the CEO of AMOS in 2015, he held various positions abroad, such as ENVISAT project engineer at the European Space Agency (NL), Operations Director for CNES at the Guyana Space Center in Kourou, Strategic Marketing Director at Air Liquide (Grenoble), and Director of Ocean Energy at ALSTOM (Nantes).

System Integration from A(nalysis) to Z(ero-G)The ins and outs of the design, development and verification of electro-optical payloads
Rutger de Nutte
System Engineer / Project Manager at OIP

Rutger started his career at OIP in 2017. A passion for space has dictated his academic and career choices, starting with a Master's Physics & Astronomy (UGent), Advanced Master's Space Studies (UGent/KU Leuven) and doctoral research in astronomy (KU Leuven). Following initial work in project and system engineering on various space projects at OIP, he has recently taken up the role as project Manager of the ALTIUS Instrument, a key space project at OIP.

Topic 4

Climate, Environment and the Green Deal
8 October 2020 16:30 - 19:00 CET

Sustainability and the Green Deal
Space is the next frontier which is explored already for several decades. But it is also a global system where human kind developed solutions and resources for our everyday life. As such space become a natural part of our environment and its essential links with Earth's activities lead to consider wider perspectives on sustainability, together with the current promotion of the Green Deal.

- The Clean Space initiative and the environmental impact of space activities
- Guaranteeing our society's sustainability through Earth observation
- Asteroids as a threat and opportunity
- Building resilience as a multi-planetary species

Chair
Olivier Chazot

Olivier Chazot is professor and Head of the Aeronautic and Aerospace department at the Von Karman Institute. He carries out research in high enthalpy facilities and plasma wind tunnels to study laminar to turbulent transition and Gas-Surface interactions in re-entry flows. He participated in multiple ESA missions for the development of flight-testing experiments like the EXPERT probe, IXV program and QARMAN re-entry CubeSat.He is also "scientist in residence" at Zurich University of Arts for transdisciplinary collaboration between art, science and philosophy in experimental research.

Chair
Guerric de Crombrugghe
PhD, Deputy General Manager of ScanWorld

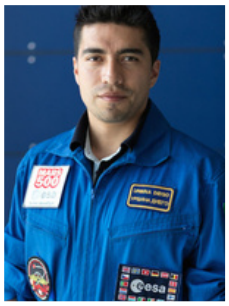
Guerric is enthusiastic and self-driven, eager to understand the world he lives in, and to contribute to a better world. He holds a PhD is aerospace engineering from the University of Queensland, in Australia. Before that, he also obtained degrees from the Louvain School of Engineering, the von Karman Institute, and the International Space University. After working for different aerospace companies, he now dedicates his time to a new challenge in the field of Earth observation.

Bird's eye view on sustainable development

Paul Counet

Head of Strategy, Communications and International Relations Division and Chef de Cabinet of the Director-General at EUMETSAT

He supports the Director-General in developing and enacting the strategy for the organisation, plans and enacts high-level activities with EUMETSAT's international partners and ensures that suitable information about EUMETSAT's goals and achievements is communicated to the media and the grand public.



Practical steps for becoming multi-planetary through the use of Space Resources

Diego Urbina

Team Leader, Future Projects and Exploration at Space Applications Services

Diego Urbina is an Electronics Engineer and he works on research and development of technologies for the Exploration of the Moon, Mars, Asteroids, and terrestrial extreme environments at Space Applications Services. Urbina has led for ESA and performed for the EU and PwC/Government of Luxembourg the design of space mining demonstration and prospecting systems and space resources technology scouting. Between 2010 and 2013, he worked for ESA as consultant at ESA ESTEC, was CAVES Engineer at the ESA Astronaut Centre, and researcher at IBMP in Russia, where he served as crew member in the longest spaceflight simulation, Mars500.

The Clean Space initiative and the environmental impact of space activities

Bernd Helber

Senior Research Engineer at von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics

Bernd Helber graduated in Aerospace Engineering from the University ofStuttgart after a stay at the Centre for Hypersonics at the Universityof Queensland. He then obtained a PhD from VKI and the VrijeUniversiteit Brussel on ablative material characterisation. Since then,Bernd works as senior researcher and project leader at VKI on theaerochemical characterization of thermal protection and space debrismaterials in the world's largest inducti vely-coupled plasma facility.Currently, he is the principal investigator of an ESA project initiatedby the Clean Space initiative in order to better understand the demisingprocess of spacecraft components.

Asteroids as a threat and opportunity

Ozgur Karatekin

Research scientist at ROB

Ozgur Karatekin obtained his PhD from VKI and the Universitè Libre de Bruxelles. Since then, he has been working at Royal Observatory of Belgium on planetary sciences. He is the Principle Investigator of the Juventas Cubesat and co-chair of proximity operations working group on Hera mission. Hera is ESA's contribution to the Asteroid Impact Deflection Assessment (AIDA) international cooperation, targeting the deflection demonstration and in-depth investigation of a near-Earth asteroid and the preparation of asteroid resources utilization.

Space Technology to the Power of Hundreds

Agnieszka Lukaszczyk

Senior Director for European Affairs at Planet

Agnieszka Lukaszczyk is the Senior Director for European Affairs at Planet. A Polish/ American national, has worked at the European Commission, Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Space Data for Societal Challenges and Growth Unit. She also worked at the Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry, Space Policy and Research Unit. Before she joined the Commission, Agnieszka was the Brussels Office Director for the Secure World Foundation. In addition, she is the former Chairperson and the former Executive Director of the Space Generation Advisory Council in Support of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. Agnieszka also worked at the European Space Policy Institute as a research fellow. Agnieszka serves as the Vice President - Europe for the World Space Week And Sits on the Board Of Directors for the Women in Aerospace-Europe. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Space Security at the Polish Defence Academy. She holds a Master's degree from the Warsaw School of Economics in Management of Space in New Economies and a Master's degree from the American University School of International Service in International Politics plus a Bachelor degree in Political Science from the University of Tennessee. She also studied at the Universite Catholique de Louvain in Brussels, Belgium; the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland and the World Trade Institute in Berne, Switzerland. She gained professional experience at the Political Section of the Polish Embassy in Washington C, American Electronics Association in Brussels, European Department of the Polish Senate in Warsaw and the Warsaw Business Journal.

Topic 5

Exploring the Universe
9 October 2020 16:30 - 19:00 CET

Space missions allow exploring the Solar System, including our Sun, and beyond. Questions like the habitability of Mars in the past, or the possibility of life within the icy moons of the gas giant planets in our solar system, are intriguing humankind. Asteroids provide information on the building blocks of our Solar System. Furthermore, there might be habitable planets outside of our solar system, so-called exoplanets. Our Universe is vast, and its origin and evolution are fascinating.

- Space weather and solar physics
- Asteroids, moons, planets
- Exoplanets
- Cosmology

Chair
Katrien Kolenberg

Katrien Kolenberg is Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Antwerp and the VUB, as well as STE(A)M coordinator and currently Flemish ESERO (European Space Education Resource Office) coordinator at the KU Leuven. Her research lies in the field of stellar astrophysics, particularly variable stars and asteroseismology. Katrien is passionate about scientific research, astronomy for development, and innovative/artistic science communication and education worldwide. She has received international awards for both scientific accomplishments and science communication.

Chair
Véronique Dehant
Head of service - ROB & Professor UCLouvain

Véronique Dehant works at the Royal Observatory of Belgium, where she is Responsible for the Operational Directorate “Reference Systems and Planetary Science”. She is also Extraordinary Professor at the Université Catholique de Louvain. She is Academician (Royal Academy of Belgium; Science class) since 2010 and was awarded with several prizes, including the Descartes Prize of the European Union in 2003. In 2015, she has obtained a European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant, with the project RotaNut: Rotation and Nutation of a wobbly Earth. She is Principal Investigator of the experience LaRa (Lander Radioscience) selected for the ExoMars 2020 mission.

Chair
Carl-Henrik Dahlqvist

Carl-Henrik Dahlqvist holds a Master's degree in Business Engineering from the Université catholique de Louvain (LSM). After having worked 2 years for SWIFT as a financial analyst, he decided to go back to university to pursue a Ph.D. in Finance in co-supervision between the Université catholique de Louvain (LSM) and the Université de Namur where he was also a teaching assistant in Finance. He decided, a few years later, to transform his passion for Astronomy and space into a possible career. In 2014, he started, on top of his Ph.D. in Econophysics, a 2 years preparatory program for the M.Sc. in Particle Physics and Cosmology. After having completed this MSc in Particle Physics and Cosmology and received his PhD in Economics from the Université de Namur (CeReFiM) and the Université catholique de Louvain (LFIN), he started in October 2018, a second PhD fellowship in exoplanet imaging at the STAR Institute at the Department of Astrophysics and Geophysics in collaboration with the Montefiore Institute of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science of the Université de Liège. His current interests lie in Exoplanets Detection, High Contrast Imaging, Optics, Solar physics, Spaces and Planetary Sciences and Satellite Conception and Operational Management.

Exoplanets and the search for life beyond our solar system

Michael Gillon

FNRS Senior Research Associate at the University of Liege

After studies in biochemistry (Master) and astrophysics (PhD) at Liège from 1998 to 2006, Michael Gillon embarked in a scientific career in the field of exoplanets to which he has brought many significant results. Notably, he led the detection of the fascinating TRAPPIST-1 system composed of seven Earth-sized planets -some of them potentially habitable- in orbit a nearby tiny star.

Understanding the formation and evolution of the solar system thanks to meteorites

Vincianne Debaille

FNRS Senior Research

Vinciane Debaille is a geologist by training, and more particularly a geochemist specialized in the chemical composition of rocks to date them and understand how they formed. She is particularly interested in the study of meteorites of different origins, coming from asteroids, but also from the Moon and Mars. She participated in several meteorite collection missions in Antarctica.

Our Universe: a 13.8 billion years old enigma

Maerten Baes

Professor of Astrophysics at Ghent University

Maarten Baes obtained his PhD in 2001, he subsequently worked in the UK and in Chile, and since 2005 he is professor of astrophysics at Ghent University. His research interests include interstellar matter, galaxy evolution and infrared astronomy. He uses supercomputer simulations as well as astronomical observations from ground-based and space observatories for his research. He has coauthored more than 300 publications and has supervised 15 PhD thesis and more than 50 master theses. He teaches various astronomy courses at the bachelor and master level at Ghent University, and regularly contributes to outreach activities all over the country.

The sun in a microchip: understanding the Sun and its impact on the Earth using computer modelling

Giovanni Lapenta

Professor of space weather at the KULeuven

Giovanni is Professor of space weather at the KULeuven and expert in space science, plasmas, high performance computing, artificial intelligence and nuclear engineeringHe is an expert in space science, plasmas, high performance computing, artificial intelligence and nuclear engineering. While the areas might look broad and separated, instead, Giovanni's research has brought them together in a number of applications, lately mostly focusing on space science and engineering and on fusion energy. Giovanni is the author of more than 250 peer reviewed papers and recipient of the RD100 Prize .

Topic 6

Space security and Defense

12 October 2020 16:30 - 19:00 CET

As identified in the space work programme of the European Union, the number of space actors, public and private, is increasing, and with them comes the development of new space technologies and markets (such as reusable launchers, mass produced small satellites, in-orbit servicing and operations, space mining, sub-orbital flights). As a result, the number of objects in orbit will likely increase dramatically in the near future as well as new types of activities are emerging raising concerns for launcher operations, safe access to and operations in space and long-term sustainability of space. To cope with this evolution, those future space operations from the Newspace may require new technical guidelines or new best practices for "Space Traffic Management" (STM) in order to preserve the space environment. This evolution is currently taking place in the US with the expected involvement of the Department of Commerce on space safety.

Europe must be an actor of this change in order to maintain its autonomy for safely accessing and using space. Indeed, in 2019 French president declared the creation of a space force command, paving the way to close links between space security and defence. This topic will address the major building blocks and the latest development linked to STM, Secure Communication, development of quantum technologies as well as the Geospatial Intelligence domain and the trending use of Artificial Intelligence in dealing with Emergency and Security Space services.

- Space Traffic Management and SST
- Govsatcom and Quantum technologies
- Geospatial Intelligence
- AI in emergency and security services
- Towards a Space Command?

Chair

Sabri Mekaoui

Project adviser at European Commission Research Executive Agency

Sabri Mekaoui is in charge of the evaluation and the technical implementation of Space projects funded by the European Commission. His project portfolio includes Earth observation technologies and applications, Govsatcom and instrumentation for Lunar exploration. Sabri was instrument scientist during the last Columbia shuttle flight STS 107. Sabri holds a PhD of Engineering from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and a master of space science and techniques from the University of Liège. Sabri studied mathematics and physics at the University of Tunis and he is an Almuni of the International Space University. Sabri has grown up in Metlaoui, in Southern Tunisia, not far from the Star Wars planet Tatooine desert.

GOVSATCOM and Public Services

Pascal Claudel

Acting Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer (COO) at European GNSS Agency (GSA)

As the Acting Executive Director of the GSA, Pascal Claudel's mission is to ensure efficient and effective management of the Agency's Galileo service, EGNOS and lead the agency's operational corporate activities. Mr Claudel has over 30 years of experience dedicated to the Space sector in positions ranging from strategic to operational in Arianespace, Starsem, Thales Alenia Space.

Quantum in space to secure communication

Gilles Lequeux

Electromechanical engineer at the Free University of Brussels

Mr. Gilles Lequeux is electromechanical engineer from the Free University of Brussels. He also received a Master degree of Business and Administration delivered by the European University of Paris. He came into the EUROPEAN COMMISSION in early 1996. He was Officer in the field of energy research and technologies under the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. In this field he was also responsible for the development of the European strategy and international cooperation. More recently, he joined the Galileo and EGNOS program and contributed to the development of the European Union Satellite Navigation Policy and the definition of strategic orientations. In his current position in DG DEFIS, Mr. Gilles Lequeux is in charge of the development of the European Union quantum technology policy for space-based applications.

Satellite hacking: how to secure spacecontrol links

Nicola De Quattro

Head of Engineering and Innovation at Vitrociset Belgium S.R.L.

Nicola De Quattro is currently the Head of Engineering and Innovation at Vitrociset Belgium. He has background in telecommunications engineering and remote sensing and has worked for twelve years as systems engineer for telecommunications, earth observation, science and navigation missions. In the last five years working for Galileo 2nd Generation, he has been involved in systems engineering activities, among other topics, for the development of new secure communications concepts and experimental payloads concept design.

SatCen and the Geospatial Intelligence domain

Sergio Albani

Head of Research, Technology Development andInnovation (RTDI) Unit at the European Union Satellite Centre

Sergio Albani is the Head of Research, Technology Development and Innovation (RTDI) Unit at the European Union Satellite Centre. He is in charge of implementing new operational solutions in the Space and Security domain looking at the whole EO and collateral data lifecycle; this is performed by exploiting new data acquisition systems, secure satellite communications, emerging technologies and innovative EO based solutions. He is responsible for several H2020 projects as well as ESA Point of Contact and GEO Principal Alternate. Mr. Albani holds a Master's Degree in Physics (Astrophysics and Space Physics branch) and a 2nd Level Specializing Master in Journalism and Scientific & Institutional Communication.

AI in emergency and security services

Benoit Deper

Founder of Aerospacelab

Benoit Deper founded Aerospacelab in 2017 after previous employments in the small satellite department at NASA Ames Research Center, as a Young Graduate Trainee at ESA ESTEC, a hypersonic UAV project lead in a consortium with Dassault Aviation and a research associate stay at IMD Business School in Switzerland.

Topic 7

Newspace, Space Business
13 October 2020 16:30 - 19:00 CET

NewSpace, a new way to do business in space

NewSpace is a global industry of private and public companies seeking to profit from innovative products or services developed for or in space, that primarily targets commercial customers and are backed by risk capital seeking a return. (NewSpace Global).
The NewSpace industry is not only defined by rapid inventions, lower costs, and rideshare, but also commercially available parts and incremental development. The barriers to access space technologies are being reduced and this is the core of this revolution/evolution, together with the innovations in computer sciences such as cloud computing and machine learning. (GeospatialWorld).

- What is covered by the concept of NewSpace.
- How to adapt classical technologies to the NewSpace constraints.

Chair

Mohammad Iranmanesh

Mohammad Iranmanesh is a Space Systems Engineer with a strong engineering background. He completed his dual degree at UCLouvain and ISAE-Supaero with a certificate in Management of Innovation from HEC Paris.He has since led the technical work of a range of projects for ESA involving space hardware at all stages of the project lifecycle.He also co-founded lide.space, a belgian startup providing a novel platform for microgravity research using glider parabolic flights. Beside this, Mohammad is also the National Point of Contact in Belgium for the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC).

Chair
Thierry du Pré-Werson

Mr Thierry du Pré-Werson is the Managing Director of SPACEBEL, a Belgian based company involved in the development of Space infrastructure software systems and Earth monitoring applications.He is a civil engineer in electronics (Master in Engineering Sciences) trained at the University of Liège (ULiège).In October 1989, after a career of 9 years in software development for SAIT Electronics – a telecommunication company – he joined SPACEBEL to be in charge of the ESA Columbus related projects.After 15 years of involvement in the development of various scientific and Earth Observation European satellites, he was appointed General Manager and later on CEO of the company.He is also Chairman of Wallonie Espace, Vice-President of Belgospace and is member of the Board of Directors of several organisations: Skywin, Agoria, YouSpace.

Opportunities for young entrepreneurs in the New Space Economy
Walter Peeters

Prof. Walter Peeters is the President-Emeritus of the International Space University (ISU), Strasbourg, France and Full Professor in Space Business and Management at the University. In his career he initially covered management positions in the construction and petrochemical industries, joining in 1983 the European Space Agency (ESA) where he was in charge of project control functions and became Head of the Coordination Office of the European Astronaut Center in Cologne. He joined ISU in 2000 as professor, nominated Dean in 2005 and became President in 2011, then President Emeritus since 2018. He was also founding director of the International Institute of Space Commerce. He advised government organizations (Estonia, Australia, Ireland, Oman) on space activities and creation of national space agencies. He is a full member of the International Academy of Astronautics, and Knight in Legion of Honor (Légion d'Honneur) in France. He obtained bachelor degrees in engineering and applied economics (Catholic University of Louvain), a Master of Business Administration (Louvain, Cornell University) and a Ph.D. in Industrial Organization (TU Delft, the Netherlands). He authored 90 articles on incentive contracting, project management and space commercialization, the book Space Marketing (Kluwer, 2000) and an IAA Report on Suborbital Spaceflight (IAA, 2014), currently conducting research on New Space Economy.

Ground to space for space or ground to space for ground: two methods generating profits with innovative space developments
Oliver Dupont
CEO, Lambda-x

Olivier Dupont, PhD, is the CEO of Lambda-X S.A. The first part of his career, 1985-2020, was academic. During that period, he worked in the Microgravity Research Center, a laboratory of the polytechnic school of ULB where he was involved in the development of various microgravity experiments onboard sounding rockets and the Spacelab D2 Mission. In parallel with the scientific research, he develops as project manager, optical equipment for space and industrial applications. In 1996, he founded with two partners, Lambda-X who designs, develops and manufactures imaging and metrology optical systems.

VEOWARE, SpaceTech Scalable by Design
Julien Tallineau
CEO, Veoware Space

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of VEOWARE SPACE, Julien is an Entrepreneur, Engineer and Business Developer with experience in successfully structuring new space businesses, validating customer need, and offering satellite platform and equipment products and services on international markets. Physics civil engineer from education with a specialization in aerospace engineering (Liège University), Julien is also Lecturer & Emerging Department Chair at the International Space University.

Become the next space entrepreneur with ESA Space Solutions Belgium
Nicolas Helssen
ESA Business Applications Ambassador

Nicolas Helssen is the ESA Business Applications Ambassador currently focusing on promoting the ESA Space Solutions programme and supporting potential candidates through a successful application process with ESA and BELSPO. He previously worked at the European Centre for Space Applications and Telecommunications in the United Kingdom as an economic researcher.

The best of both worlds: matured technologies and new business models

Guerric de Crombrugghe

PhD, Deputy General Manager of ScanWorld

Guerric is enthusiastic and self-driven, eager to understand the world he lives in, and to contribute to a better world. He holds a PhD is aerospace engineering from the University of Queensland, in Australia. Before that, he also obtained degrees from the Louvain School of Engineering, the von Karman Institute, and the International Space University. After working for different aerospace companies, he now dedicates his time to a new challenge in the field of Earth observation.

Topic 8

Satellites you use them every day
14 October 2020 16:30 - 19:00 CET

Information coming from satellites touches each of our lives in many different ways. Whether as a farmer managing their crops or reducing their use of pesticides, as a driver finding your way to an unknown destination and driving along improved and safer roads, or simply as a householder benefiting from a more secure gas connection, everybody is benefiting in sometimes unexpected ways. These are just a few examples; there are many more.

In this topic we shall discuss how observing satellites are transforming the way we live in ways which are largely unknown. We'll show how they are benefiting all of us from decision makers in government and industry, to engineers and farmers working with the land, to ship's captains' navigating through ice and storms, to you and me and the safety of our families. We shall discuss the multiple ways in which we are benefiting, and we shall look at ways to quantify this.

The wide range of applications of satellite data and hence the markets which are addressed brings exciting opportunities for businesses. There are over 650 companies in Europe offering to meet the needs of the market and the number is growing steadily. Overall, the sector is growing at a rate of 10% each year both in revenues and employment. Many new companies are being formed each year right across Europe. Finding employees with the right skills is becoming an issue and potentially a brake on the sector development. We shall discuss what particular skills are needed by the key players in the sector.

Chair

Geoff Sawyer

Strategic advisor to the board of EARSC

Geoff is a strategic advisor to the board of EARSC having been, until recently the Secretary General of EARSC since 2011. Geoff has driven the development of the Association into the widely-known and well-regarded organisation it is today. During his long and varied career, Geoff has held senior management positions in the space industry with Astrium / EADS / Airbus as well as numerous representative positions in the UK and Europe. In his early career, Geoff was the radar systems designer for ERS-1 and Envisat and later became vice-president for the space strategy for EADS (now Airbus). He was previously a director of EARSC for 12 years during which he was chairman for 6 years from 1991 to 1997. He spent 3 years working for the European Commission where he was responsible for supporting space policy and, in particular, the creation of the GMES (now Copernicus) initiative. Geoff is very well known to many in the space and earth observation sectors and brings this deep wealth of experience and knowledge to support the ambitions of the geo-information industry that EARSC represents.

Special Guest
The future of work in the space sector after Covid
Eric Morel
Director ESA

Eric Morel de Westgaver graduated in Economics from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. He joined ESA in 1987 as Industrial Policy Officer in the Directorate of Administration. In 2001, he became Head of the Industrial Policy and Cost Analysis Department in the Directorate of Industrial Matters and Technology Programmes.Before his current appointment, he had been Director of Procurement, Financial Operations and Legal Affairs since April 2011 and before that, Head of the Procurement Department since October 2004 in the Directorate of Resources Management and Industrial Matters. In addition to this responsibility he was nominated Associate Director for Industrial Matters by the Director General in February 2010.Eric Morel de Westgaver took up duty as Director of Industry, Procurement and Legal Services (D/IPL) on 1 November 2013. He was appointed Head of HQ Paris on 1 October 2016.

Special Guest
EU Space – Benefits down to earth
Pascal Claudel
Acting Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer (COO) at European GNSS Agency (GSA)

As the Acting Executive Director of the GSA, Pascal Claudel's mission is to ensure efficient and effective management of the Agency's Galileo service, EGNOS and lead the agency's operational corporate activities. Mr Claudel has over 30 years of experience dedicated to the Space sector in positions ranging from strategic to operational in Arianespace, Starsem, Thales Alenia Space.

The added value of the integration of different remote sensing data
Andre Jadot
CEO, Eurosense

André Jadot has a Master Degree in Chemical Engineering (University of Louvain) and a Master Degree in Business Administration (University of Ghent). He started his career at BP Belgium in 1987 and joined Belconsulting in 1989 reaching the role of Director. In the Eurosense Group, he exercised the role from 1991 till 2010 of Director in charge of Sales and Business Development. In 2011, he joined the start-up Gatewing, which was later on succesfully acquired by Trimble. Since 2017, André Jadot is CEO of Eurosense and CEO of Esri BeLux.

Public services: suppliers, customers and funders of spatial data and services
Eric Hallot
Head of Remote Sensing and Geodata unit at ISSep

Eric Hallot obtained a degree in Geography and a Master degree in Physical Geography from the University of Liège (ULg), Belgium. He had an experience in project management (EU and Environmental regional management). He obtained a PhD thesis on rivers courses typology and watershed management in the framework of the DCE. He did postdoctoral research at the Canadian Fluvial Dynamics Research Chair (University of Montreal) on integrated watershed management. He was lecturer at the Department of Geography of ULg during 7 years. He is currently manager of the ISSeP Remote Sensing and Geodata unit and works on models of environmental risks, dasymetric modeling, sediment management and cooperation with developing countries.

Using space technologies to locate emergency calls: Advanced Mobile Location
Benoît Vivier
Public Affairs Manager

Transports, industry, defence, agriculture, urban planning, environment, public safety... all these sectors are becoming increasingly dependent on space programmes. Meeting this growing demand will require more and more experts who can “bring space to earth” and ensure the good use of space technologies. For this reason, it is essential to make space students aware of the many different use cases where space impact our daily lives.

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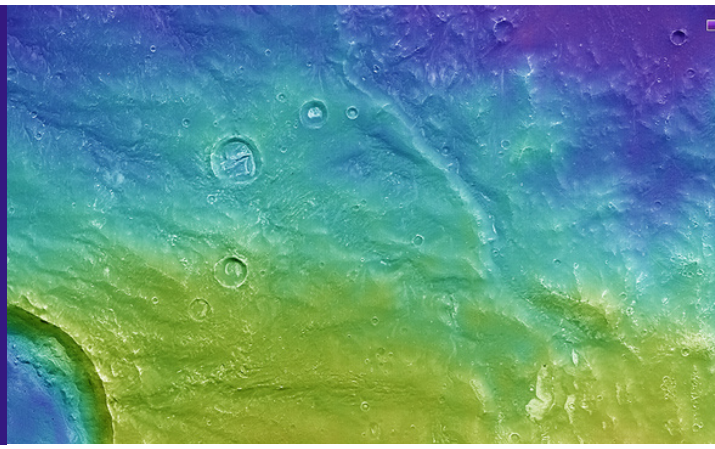
Thank you very much!



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Wallonie

www.wallonie.be

The Walloon public Service - Research (SPW Recherche) is the legal administration in charge of funding applied research for new technologies and energy for industries, academia and research centres, as well as of related international scientific co-operation. It is therefore the key advisory body for the Regional government authorities involving research and innovation policy. The "Research and Technological Development" department supports, amongst others, all Walloon space research and applications projects.

Belgian Science Policy Office

belspo

www.belspo.be

The "Space Research and Applications" directorate is responsible for managing Belgium's space programme on a daily basis, both on a European and bilateral level.Belgium has been active in the space sector for the past thirty years and was at the origin of the foundation of the European Space Agency (ESA). The directorate manages all the space programmes, i.e. space sciences, earth observation, navigation, telecommunications, international space station, exploration, launchers, technology and science programmes. For this purpose, it is in permanent contact with the industrial and scientific world to ensure its maximum involvement in these different programmes. Special attention is given to the development of products with a high technological value, ensuring a maximum return on investment in terms of our country's financial help.

KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
Federal Public Service
Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

www.diplomatie.belgium.be

The Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation is in charge of implementing Belgium's foreign policy. Its mission is to serve, defend and promote the interests of Belgium and Belgians abroad, to stimulate the coherence of the country's actions on the international scene and to coordinate Belgium's European policy as a federal country. The FPS works towards a secure, just and prosperous world.

aerospacelab

www.aerospacelab.be

Aerospacelab in a Belgian company based in Louvain-La-Neuve and Leuven, currently counting more than 60 employees.Aerospacelab delivers near real-time data and intelligence, based on proprietary high-resolution satellite imagery and external sources. The company develops both hardware (satellites, subsystems, and components) and software to extract information from satellite data.Aerospacelab recruits young talents in various technical fields, wanting to unleash their full potential and have a real positive impact on our society.

EUMETSAT

www.eumetsat.int

The European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT). EUMETSAT is an intergovernmental organisation and was founded in 1986. Our purpose is to supply weather and climate-related satellite data, images and products – 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – to the National Meteorological Services of our Member States in Europe, and other users worldwide.

OIP Sensor Systems

www.oip.be

OIP Sensor Systems was founded in 1919 and quickly established a reputation as a high-tech optical manufacturer. Based in Oudenaarde, OIP Sensor Systems has pioneered in electro-optical technologies, such as fibre optics, lasers, night vision and holography. In the '80ies, a Space Department was created, which has been involved in the design, development and manufacture of optical instruments for space applications, such as imaging spectrometers for planetary and earth observation, cameras for navigation and instrumentation for science missions.

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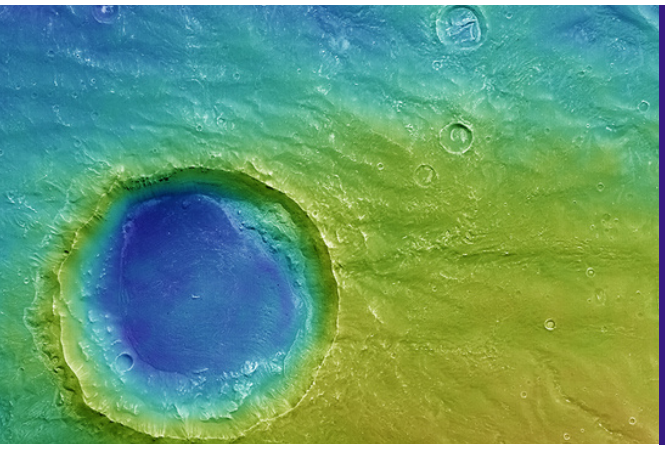


Those who made it happen!

Dominique Tilmans
The Chair of YouSpace

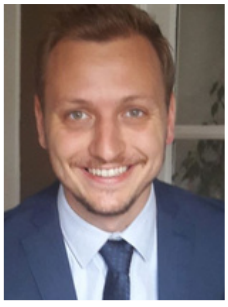
After a career of 27 years in politics marked by an active involvement in the Space sector through chairing the 'Space group Senate' and leading the European Interparliamentary Space Conference (EISC), I launched YouSpace in 2014 in order to link Students to Belgian Space experts. I am currently the Chair of EURISY, Board Member of Vitrociset Belgium, Member of the Advisory Board of ESPI and VP of the International Aeronautical Federation.

Sabri Mekaoui

Project officer at European Commission Research Executive Agency. He is in charge of the evaluation and the technical implementation of Space projects funded by the European Commission. His project portfolio includes Earth observation technologies (satellites and instrumentation), marine and air quality observation EO systems as well as scientific instrumentation for Lunar exploration.Sabri holds a PhD of Engineering from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and a master of space science and techniques from the University of Liège.

Jeremy Rabineau

Aerospace Engineer from ISAE-Supaéro (France) now enrolled in a PhD in Space Physiology at Université Libre de Bruxelles. Jérémy already had the opportunity to work on several experiments for the ISS and is passionate about the human aspects of space exploration. Beside this, he is also president of the student chapter of the European Low-Gravity Research Association (ELGRA).

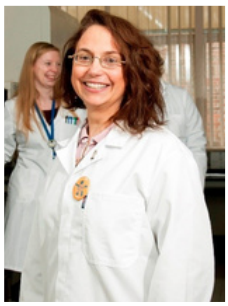


Alexis Farmakidis

Ever since he was little, the image of the Pale Blue Dot lost in the vastness of space has left its indelebile mark in Alexis' mind. That's why he studied Political Science and holds a Master's degree in International Relations: he wants to understand and go beyond our earthly human systems. Technology, space-related sciences and Politics are his passions. He now works as a project officer in Space Research for the European Commission's Research Executive Agency (REA).

Veronique Dehant

Véronique Dehant works at the Royal Observatory of Belgium, where she is Responsible for the Operational Directorate “Reference Systems and Planetary Science”. She is also Extraordinary Professor at the Université Catholique de Louvain. She is Academician (Royal Academy of Belgium; Science class) since 2010 and was awarded with several prizes, including the Descartes Prize of the European Union in 2003. In 2015, she has obtained a European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant, with the project RotaNut: Rotation and Nutation of a wobbly Earth. She is Principal Investigator of the experience LaRa (Lander Radioscience) selected for the ExoMars 2020 mission.

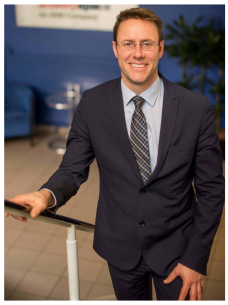


Sarah Baatout

Dr. Sarah Baatout is head of the radiobiology unit at the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK•CEN) in Mol, Belgium. Her research focuses on the potential risks of ionizing radiation on health allowing a more accurate radiation risk assessment for long-term human space missions. Her work is performed in close collaboration with the European Commission, European Space Agency, Belgian & European Universities, hospitals & research institutes. She is invited professor at KULeuven (Belgium) and guest professor at Ghent University (Belgium). In 2018, she won the BeSpace Personality of the Year award for her passion and scientific work related to space biology and in 2020, she was recognized by the King of Belgium as one of the 12 remarkable females of the country. S. Baatout went to Antarctica to monitor health changes in this extreme environment with high degree of isolation and confinement that parallels most closely long-duration human missions in space.

Kevin Tabury

Kevin Tabury is a junior scientist at the Radiobiology Unit of SCK CEN where he is leading Hadron radiation related projects in the context of Space and Radiotherapy research. Prior his function as junior scientist, he acquired almost 10 years of technical expertise as lab technician. He is also currently combining his position as junior scientist with a PhD at the University of South Carolina, USA.



Koen Puimège

Koen is chairman of the board of the Flemish space industry (VRI), member of the board of Belgospace and managing director of Antwerp Space NV.He has been active in the space industry for more than 24 years in various leadership roles and has a background in electronics and business administration. In his current position, his ambition is threefold: to strengthen cooperation between space companies and universities in Belgium, to represent them to national and international governments and to make them known to the general public.At European and international level, Koen builds bridges between the Belgian space sector and foreign agencies, companies and institutions.He has a creative, result-oriented and entrepreneurial mentality.

Frank Preud’homme

Frank holds a Master in Engineering and has been active in the space sector for almost 30 years. He has experience in project management and has held several management positions at QinetiQ. Currently, he is the Sales and Business Development Director and a member of the board, with additional responsibilities for communications, external relations, and strategy.He was in charge of the set-up and creation of a new space company in Belgium, in Redu, where he was temporarily Managing Director until a new management team was put in place. Frank is very active in space: he has been part of different advisory groups for exploration and space technical infrastructure and he has supported numerous outreach, educational, and inspirational events. He is a member of the board of the Vlaamse Ruimtevaartindustrie, Belgospace, and FLAG.

Marta Lebron

Marta now works as Marketing and Communications Officer at QinetiQ, in Kruibeke, after working for some years in a New Space startup. She’s an alumni of the International Space University and one of the co-founders and team members of Astropreneurs.space.She’s very active in the young space community. She has supported and organized various events like SpaceUp and is an active member of the Space Generation Advisory Council. She’s also part of the TEDxAntwerp team.

Guerric de Crombrugghe

Guerric is enthusiastic and self-driven, eager to understand the world he lives in, and to contribute to a better world. He holds a PhD is aerospace engineering from the University of Queensland, in Australia. Before that, he also obtained degrees from the Louvain School of Engineering, the von Karman Institute, and the International Space University. After working for different aerospace companies, he now dedicates his time to a new challenge in the field of Earth observation.

Amélie Revers

A small introduction about me, I have a law degree, I started my career in 2007 at the UCM which is an officially authorized Payroll Provider's Company, first as a Payroll Officer, but very quickly as a Front Lawyer Officer specializing in Social Law.Passionate about the space sector when I was a little girl - I remember when I was 10 years old and I met Frank de Winne , I seized the job opportunity offered by Vitrociset Belgium in 2012 where I am now HRD for the whole Belgian Group, with employees working in the Province of Luxembourg and present as well in many European countries.I wanted, outside of this professional context, to get involved as a volunteer for the Switch to Space project because I am passionate, and I would like to extend my knowledge about Space Sector.

Olivier Chazot

Olivier Chazot is professor and Head of the Aeronautic and Aerospace department at the Von Karman Institute. He carries out research in high enthalpy facilities and plasma wind tunnels to study laminar to turbulent transition and Gas-Surface interactions in re-entry flows. He participated in multiple ESA missions for the development of flight-testing experiments like the EXPERT probe, IXV program and QARMAN re-entry CubeSat.He is also "scientist in residence" at Zurich University of Arts for transdisciplinary collaboration between art, science and philosophy in experimental research.

Mohammad Iranmanesh

Mohammad Iranmanesh is a Space Systems Engineer with a strong engineering background. He completed his dual degree at UCLouvain and ISAE-Supaero with a certificate in Management of Innovation from HEC Paris.He has since led the technical work of a range of projects for ESA involving space hardware at all stages of the project lifecycle.He also co-founded lide.space, a belgian startup providing a novel platform for microgravity research using glider parabolic flights. Beside this, Mohammad is also the National Point of Contact in Belgium for the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC).

Sven Geuns

Sven holds a Bachelor in marine engineering. After sailing the world for 6 years, he changed course. Obtaining a Master of science in Electronics-ICT, he is now working as a software engineering consultant in safety related systems. He is a science and space enthusiast.

Katrien Kolenberg

Katrien Kolenberg is Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Antwerp and the VUB, as well as STE(A)M coordinator and currently Flemish ESERO (European Space Education Resource Office) coordinator at the KU Leuven. Her research lies in the field of stellar astrophysics, particularly variable stars and asteroseismology. Katrien is passionate about scientific research, astronomy for development, and innovative/artistic science communication and education worldwide. She has received international awards for both scientific accomplishments and science communication.

Carl-Henrik Dahlqvist

Carl-Henrik Dahlqvist holds a Master's degree in Business Engineering from the Université catholique de Louvain (LSM). After having worked 2 years for SWIFT as a financial analyst, he decided to go back to university to pursue a Ph.D. in Finance in co-supervision between the Université catholique de Louvain (LSM) and the Université de Namur where he was also a teaching assistant in Finance. He decided, a few years later, to transform his passion for Astronomy and space into a possible career. In 2014, he started, on top of his Ph.D. in Econophysics, a 2 years preparatory program for the M.Sc. in Particle Physics and Cosmology. After having completed this MSc in Particle Physics and Cosmology and received his PhD in Economics from the Université de Namur (CeReFiM) and the Université catholique de Louvain (LFIN), he started in October 2018, a second PhD fellowship in exoplanet imaging at the STAR Institute at the Department of Astrophysics and Geophysics in collaboration with the Montefiore Institute of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science of the Université de Liège. His current interests lie in Exoplanets Detection, High Contrast Imaging, Optics, Solar physics, Spaces and Planetary Sciences and Satellite Conception and Operational Management.

Vladimir Pletser

Prof. Dr. Ir. Vladimir Pletser is currently Director of Space Training Operations at Blue Abyss, proposing new approaches for astronaut training.He was previously Visiting Professor and Scientific Adviser at the Technology and Engineering Center for Space Utilization, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, on microgravity research for parabolic flights and Chinese Space StationHe was also Senior Physicist-Engineer at the European Space Research and Technology Centre, European Space Agency, developing scientific instruments for microgravity research on the International Space Station and coordinating ESA aircraft parabolic flight campaigns. He logged more than 7350 parabolas, equivalent to 39h30m of weightlessness or 26 Earth orbits.Astronaut Candidate for Belgium, he trained as Payload Specialist at NASA-JSC and participated in three Mars mission simulations.

Julien Béclard

Julien Béclard works for the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO) and the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the European Union. He is in charge of the coordination of Belgium's positions in space matters inside the EU institutions and more particularly inside the Council of the European Union where he seats for Belgium in the Space working party. His fields of expertise cover the space programme of the European Union, the European space governance and the relations between the EU and the European space agency (ESA).Julien holds a PhD in Political Science on the European space policy from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB).

Thierry du Pré-Werson

Mr Thierry du Pré-Werson is the Managing Director of SPACEBEL, a Belgian based company involved in the development of Space infrastructure software systems and Earth monitoring applications.He is a civil engineer in electronics (Master in Engineering Sciences) trained at the University of Liège (ULiège).In October 1989, after a career of 9 years in software development for SAIT Electronics – a telecommunication company – he joined SPACEBEL to be in charge of the ESA Columbus related projects.After 15 years of involvement in the development of various scientific and Earth Observation European satellites, he was appointed General Manager and later on CEO of the company.He is also Chairman of Wallonie Espace, Vice-President of Belgospace and is member of the Board of Directors of several organisations: Skywin, Agoria, YouSpace.

Thierry Dewandre

Thierry Dewandre worked at the European Space Agency (ESA-ESTEC, Noordwijk, The Netherlands) from 1985 to 2012, and is now retired. He was active as engineer and scientist, and later as manager, in the project management of scientific experiments (Physics, Chemistry, Human Physiology) developed for and performed in Spacelab, and afterwards in the International Space Station. In this frame, he spent years at NASA centres (Cap Canaveral & NASA Mission Control Centre).He holds an "Ingénieur Civil Physicien" degree (UCL), he obtained an M.Sc. and a Ph.D. (Laser-Plasmas Interaction, in a 200-persons Laser Laboratory) at the University of Rochester (USA). After a PostDoc at the Ecole Polytechnique (Paris), he led the "Vacuum thin films" R&D section at VEGLA GmbH (Germany) before joining ESA.

Natacha Callens

Natacha Callens graduated with a PhD in Physics awarded by the Université Pierre et Marie Curie and the Université Libre de Bruxelles. She works for the ESA Education Office since 2009. After developing and coordinating for several years some ESA hands-on programmes, including the Fly, Drop and Spin Your Thesis! programmes, she is now in charge of the ESA Academy's Training and Learning Programme.

Olivier Dupont

The first part of his career, 1985-2020, was academic. During that period, he worked in the Microgravity Research Center, a laboratory of the polytechnic school of ULB where he was involved in the development of various microgravity experiments onboard sounding rockets and the Spacelab D2 Mission. In parallel with the scientific research, he develops as project manager, optical equipment for space and industrial applications. In 1996, he founded with two partners, Lambda-X who designs, develops and manufactures imaging and metrology optical systems for high technological markets like space & security, biomedical & life science as well as process control for the industry.

Philippe Bouchez

Philippe holds a Masters in Aerospace Engineering and has been active in the space sector for over 25 years. He is currently Space Instrumentation Program Manager at Centre Spatial de Liège (CSL). As a student, Philippe really "Switched to Space" when joining EUROAVIA (The European Association of Aerospace Students). He set up a local group at the University of Liège and was selected for the first Euroavia Design Contest, which offered him the opportunity to participate in a 2-weeks Space Mission Design workshop organised for students with the support of ESA and Industry. This experience definitly paved the way for an exciting career in Earth Observation Instrumentation, Satellite and Mission Control, Navigation and downstream applications.

Linda Kimeisa

Linda is a digital communication manager at WIT Berry (Latvia) Linda has more than 10 years of experience. Author of the book "Web content that sells". For last few years Linda has participated in different international space projects.

Guna Valtere

Guna is a communication and marketing manager with more than 5 years of experience. She cherishes personalised communication on all levels: among colleagues, with clients, and between clients and their clients. In doing her job Guna always goes the extra mile to ensure the quality of the work.