



Media release
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SmartSat CRC formally launches the Aurora Space Startup Cluster to unlock the power of Australia's space tech entrepreneurs

SmartSat CRC is now formally launching the Aurora Space Startup Cluster, a new company with over sixty-five member companies representing every part of the space supply chain – from rocket launch services, in-space computing, precision sensors, satellite digital twin technology, in-orbit and deep space operations, right through to ground station antennae development and Earth data applications for agriculture, resources and sustainability management.

Inspired by the energy, grit and determination of our space tech entrepreneurs, Aurora aims to provide a framework for startups to grow together in commercial collaborations with one another, with research organisations, and with local and international primes, to win business, commercialise leap-frog R&D, and build world-class capabilities in ways that would otherwise be difficult by themselves.

Aurora's Inaugural Board is comprised of Directors Andrew Barton (Southern Launch), Troy McCann (Moonshot), Chair Dr Tim Parsons (Delta-V Newspace Alliance), Conrad Pires (Picosat Systems), and Dr Anastasia Volkova (FluroSat), together with Prof Andy Koronios and Peter Nikoloff representing SmartSat CRC.

A brand identity for Aurora has also been established, reflecting the organisation's goal to help its members grow, soaring upwards to break through the boundary between Earth and space.

"Startups are, by definition, companies looking to grow fast by leveraging new technologies and disruptive business models. If we're to have any chance of meeting the nation's ambitious growth targets for space, we need to help our space startups grow faster, in technical readiness level, in capability to execute, and commercial acumen," says Dr Parsons, who chaired the Aurora Steering Group in the past year through its formation phase.

auroraspacecluster.com

An initiative of SmartSat CRC funded by the Australian Government's CRC Program.



SmartSat CEO Andy Koronios said “SmartSat is committed to supporting the Australian space innovation ecosystem. We invite space start-ups to join Aurora and help us build the space industry.”

AURORA ENQUIRIES:

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Chair, Aurora Space Cluster

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ABOUT THE SMARTSAT CRC

The SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre brings together over 100 national and international partners who have invested over \$190 million, along with \$55 million in Federal Government funding under its Cooperative Research Centres Program, in a \$245 million research effort over seven years. Working closely with the Australian Space Agency, SmartSat will make a strong contribution to the Australian Government’s goal of tripling the size of the space sector to \$12 billion and creating up to 20,000 jobs by 2030. Priority industry sectors for SmartSat include telecommunications, agriculture and natural resources, transport and logistics, mining, and defence and national security.