



Australian Government  
Department of Industry, Science,  
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## Media Release 23 March 2021

### Game changing appointment for Australian Space R&D

SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre has appointed an Australian *Senior Engineer from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory to accelerate Australia's leading space R&D program*

Australia's rapidly emerging space sector has received a major boost with the appointment of a leading Aerospace Engineer previously involved in high profile NASA space missions including the recent rover landing on Mars.

In a move that will substantially strengthen Australia's space sector, Dr Carl Seubert, a Senior Aerospace Engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) has been appointed as the Chief Research Officer at SmartSat CRC.

Dr Seubert's appointment will accelerate SmartSat's R&D program by driving innovation in the space sector and bolstering collaboration between Australian companies and global space organisations.

He has been a key figure in high profile NASA missions including the Perseverance rover landing on Mars in February. Dr Seubert's expertise and leadership will turbocharge Australia's space capability as it strives to become a leading player in space exploration.

A graduate in aerospace engineering from the University of Sydney, Dr Seubert has gained international credentials at NASA which will now help him guide SmartSat's Federal Government \$245 million research & development investment program.

Dr Seubert said he was excited to return to Australia at a time when the space industry is set to thrive under the leadership of Australia's centre of space innovation - SmartSat CRC.

"I am thrilled to be joining the SmartSat team. It will be a privilege and an honour to apply my NASA space engineering and leadership experience back home", said Dr Seubert.

"I look forward to engaging with world-class academic and industry partners and forging research collaborations to develop technology for Australia's future space missions. I am passionate about extending Australia's reach into space and for us to become a renowned space-faring nation."

SmartSat CEO Professor, Andy Koronios said Dr Seubert's appointment was a game-changing move for SmartSat and his expertise would benefit the entire Australian space industry.

"We are absolutely delighted to appoint Dr Seubert as SmartSat's Chief Research Officer. I am particularly pleased to welcome an Aussie back home to help build our space industry" said Professor Koronios.



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“Dr Seubert’s impressive career has seen him lead key missions for NASA JPL and win numerous awards for innovation, technical leadership and engineering excellence. His extensive experience at NASA JPL will certainly advance SmartSat.”

The Head of the Australian Space Agency, Mr Enrico Palermo welcomed the appointment of Dr Seubert to SmartSat

“Australians are among the most talented people within the global space industry and it is terrific to see these strong skills and capability back on home soil,” Mr Palermo said.

“The international connections Dr Seubert will bring to the new role in SmartSat as Chief Research Officer will undoubtedly further develop Australia’s expanding ecosystem of space companies and start-ups.”

Dr Seubert will take up his appointment at SmartSat at the end of May.

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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.

#### **SMARTSAT CRC ENQUIRIES:**

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