

# SMARTSAT NEWS

ISSUE 13 - December 2020



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# CEO Welcome



Dear Colleagues

We are quickly approaching the end of a year which has presented us with challenges we never expected. However, I am proud to say that despite ongoing restrictions and changes to business operations all around the world, we have been agile in our response and have

made great progress this year.

We have now approved over 30 research projects and awarded 20 PhD scholarships. After an extensive consultation process, I am pleased to advise that the SmartSat Strategic Plan has now been approved by our Board and will be emailed to all our partners. A high level Executive Summary will become available on our website soon. Please also take the opportunity to review our Annual Report which outlines our achievements in SmartSat's first year of operation..

I would like to thank Dr Nick Stacy for the fantastic contribution he has made as Chief Research Officer (CRO) and congratulate Professor Allison Kealy who will be acting CRO until the recruitment process of the new CRO is complete. Dr Nick Stacy will continue to contribute to SmartSat.

We are grateful to our Chair and the Board of Directors for their strategic guidance and great support they have given us throughout the year. At the 2020 AGM, four Directors voluntarily retired and nominated themselves for re-election as required by the constitution. I am delighted to announce that Dr Michele Allan, Dr Jackie Craig, Dr Ros Dubs and Prof Margaret Harding were re-elected unanimously. We are in the process of selecting an additional two Directors to fill current vacancies who have suitable skills and experience to complete the required Board skill set.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the wonderful SmartSat Team for their dedication, hard work and service beyond expectation; through their commitment to the SmartSat values we are building a culture that will drive SmartSat to great heights.

I wish you all a safe and happy festive season and trust you will enjoy a well-earned break. We look forward to returning in the New Year to continue our mission of building Australia's space ecosystem and delivering value for our partners and our Nation.

*Andy*

**Andy Koronios**

Chief Executive Officer

**“We are grateful to our Chair and the Board of Directors for their strategic guidance and great support they have given us throughout the year.”**



## Comms & Outreach



### Director, Communication & Outreach - Nicola Sasanelli

Dear Colleagues,

I extend to all my colleagues and friends warm wishes for the Christmas season. This year

has brought us many challenges and I am sure we will appreciate the opportunity to spend time with our loved ones at Christmas more than ever. I hope in 2021 we will be able to see our colleagues around the country who we have missed during the past year.

I would like to draw your attention to the [2019-2020 SmartSat Annual Report](#) which has recently been released. This inaugural report maps out the groundwork undertaken in SmartSat's first year of operation to form an outstanding Co-operative Research Centre which focuses on delivering tangible industry benefits. It outlines our achievements in 2019-2020 and highlights how far we have come in the past twelve months. I encourage you to read the report and share with your colleagues.

Since our last newsletter we have had participated in the 10th Australian Space Forum which, despite being held virtually, was a wonderful showcase of the space ecosystem. SmartSat hosted a panel session jointly with Defence Science and Technology Group to discuss the STaR Shot research mission, that will benefit future resilient military satellite capabilities and provide 'leapfrog' technology for commercial markets. In addition, we also held a number of workshops and webinars which are outlined further in this newsletter.

Plans for 2021 are now underway, including the continuation of the Distinguished Speaker Series which have proven to be very popular this year. All going well, we also plan to hold face-to-face events around Australia, to connect with our national colleagues, share knowledge and continue to build our industry network. Key dates for 2021 will be released early in the year.

In the meantime, I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and a relaxing start to the New Year.

Kind regards

Nicola



**“This inaugural report maps out the groundwork undertaken in SmartSat’s first year of operation to form an outstanding Co-operative Research Centre.”**

# Research



## Professor Allison Keally, Acting Chief Research Officer

The November SmartSat Board meeting approved four new projects across our three research programs.

MIMO and Cooperative

Communications for New Space (DST Group and UniSA). This Research Program 1 project is a phase 1 feasibility study that aligns with dynamic and resilient networking using synchronised multiple apertures to implement higher performing links. It will model and demonstrate important technology for utilising distributed systems in clusters/constellations of satellites or distributed ground terminals that is a high priority area for future space technology.

Evaluation of rare-earth quantum communication technology for space-based applications (ANU). This Research Program 1 project aligns with the SmartSat technology roadmap quantum communications and sensing. It is an essential component required for an end-to-end secure quantum network.

Research Program 2 saw two successful projects developed via an industry Project Concept call. Firstly, Space Analytics Engine for On-Board Machine Learning and Multimodal Data Fusion (University of Adelaide, University of New South Wales and BAE Systems). This project will develop novel capabilities for the application and maintenance of advanced algorithms on small SWaP processing systems. These will have applications to all three research programs and the three SmartSat missions. Secondly, Trusted AI Frameworks for Change Detection in Observed ISR Patterns (University of Adelaide and BAE Systems). This project seeks to progress the higher-level fusion and analytics required for making sense of large quantities of remote sensing processed data. It aligns with on-board analytics and is a critical step required to achieve the Problem Centric Operations in the technology roadmap.

Under our Tactical Research Fund, the SmartSat Executive has also approved a number of research projects including Hybrid terrestrial-satellite access system for IoT applications - Phase 1 (RMIT, Fleet, and Macquarie), Anomaly Detection in IoT For Satellite Security Using Blockchain (LaTrobe and BAE Systems), Development of Taxonomy for Space System Resilience (UniSA), LEO Constellation Resilience Technologies - Horizon Scan (Shoal and Deakin), and Development of an Evil Digital Twin for LEO small satellite constellations (UniSA, Terra Schwartz, and Skykraft).

Our projects continue to be informed by the needs of our end-user community through our Sector Plans and they are driven by our industry partners.

## Project Concepts

In addition to working directly with partner organisations to develop research projects, we continue to release Project Concepts to the partner network seeking a Research Response. Project Concepts that outline the project's intended aims and objectives, problem statement, strategic alignment, utilisation, and impact are announced to SmartSat Participant key contacts via email. Most recently we released the following project concepts (applications for these are now closed and are currently under assessment):

- A Decentralised Cognitive System for Radar Signal Recognition
- Precision Timing for Space-Based Applications – Utilisation Study
- Next Generation Testbed Design for Earth Observation
- Optimising and Leveraging Current State-of-the-Art EO Calibration and Validation Capability in Australia

We will continue to develop some of our research projects in this way and welcome participation from SmartSat partners in this approach. For more information on this please visit our [Project Opportunities](#) webpage. Anyone interested should also ensure that the appointed SmartSat contact person/s within their organisation forwards our 'project opportunities' emails via their internal distribution list.

## Education & Training College



**Dr Ady James**  
**Education**  
**& Training Director -**  
**Industry Training**  
**Program**

The College has formed a formal PhD Scholarship Assessment Committee, which comprises Prof Wei Xiang, Dr Ady James, Prof Andy Koronios, Dr Nick Stacy, Andrew Beveridge, and Peter Nikoloff. The Committee meets regularly to discuss all submitted PhD scholarship applications and to provide feedback to the assessed applications.



**Prof Wei Xiang**  
**Director of Higher**  
**Degree Research**

In the October meeting four applications were assessed with two seeking a full scholarship and the other two seeking a top-up scholarship. Following this, in November ten applications were received for assessment (three top-up scholarships and seven full scholarships). A further five new applications will be assessed in December. As a result, at the beginning of 2021 we expect to have 20 HDR students on SmartSat scholarships.

The applications have been of a very high standard covering a range of technologies and space sector applications. We are extremely pleased with the current cohort and congratulate all of the successful candidates thus far. It has been observed by Prof Xiang two most common problems are some applications are not properly aligned with one or more SmartSat's priority areas, and that some applications do not demonstrate any industry partner involvement. These common issues are being collected and will be published in an FAQ format on our website soon, to assist future applicants.

PhD student projects are listed on the SmartSat project page for anyone seeking further information on their research topics.

LAUNCH YOUR SPACE CAREER  
WITH SMARTSAT

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

SmartSat invites expressions of interest  
for higher degrees by research (PhD)  
scholarships commencing in 2021

**SMARTSAT**  
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE

# Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee



**Emily White, Executive Officer**

SmartSat has continued to work with The Inclusive Organisation to progress our Diversity & Inclusion program. Since the last update, an internal assessment of SmartSat performance across 16 measures

of inclusion has been completed. The report was generated based on data obtained through a staff survey, three focus group discussions and a review of the SmartSat document suite (policies, procedures, and communications).

Following this, the SmartSat Executive participated in an Inclusive Solution Planning workshop which focused on reviewing the recommendations from the report and developing an Action Plan.

We would like to thank our eight partners who participated in the Inclusive Leader Training Program- FluroSat, FrontierSI, Myriota, Office of Planetary Observations, Sitael, Shoal Group, Space-BD and Spiral Blue. We hope you all gained some valuable insights that you can apply in your organisations and in the space industry more broadly.

The next step in our collaborative research project is the development of a tool to measure the state of inclusion across the entire space sector. We will be reaching out to partners to support us in this assessment in the new year.

We look forward to growing our D&I program in 2021, commencing with the implementation of the SmartSat Health & Wellbeing program.

## Industry



**Peter Nikoloff, Director, Industry Advisory Board**

The year has finished on a great note for SmartSat. Sarah Canard our Deputy Industry Director and Peter Kerr our Defence Projects Co-ordinator have been working

hard with our End User Advisory Board's (EUAB) to develop and complete our EUAB Sector Priorities and research focus areas. SmartSat partners will have access next week to the summary of the Sector Priorities for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Mining and Energy and Defence and National Security. The full version of the Sector Priorities will be released early in the new year. The next phase will be to develop an implementation plan that identifies the top projects that will generate maximum impact across the

sectors as well as research areas and project that provide cross-sector benefits. These documents will be used by the SmartSat Exec, Research Team and Board Research Investment Committee and partners to help guide project development and approval.

We have just completed our first two project transition meetings which is one of the first steps in transitioning to the next phase of a multi-phase project. These meetings bring together project partners and SmartSat team members and consists of Industry lead briefings on the project outcomes and importantly the concept for the next stage. Of importance to us is the ongoing assessment of the viability and commercial potential of the technology. The first two projects were the "Coherent Free Space Optical Comms" and "Compact Hybrid Optical/RF User Segment (CHORUS)". It was fantastic to see the very strong industry input and participation in these projects, a high bar we need for all our projects, well done.

In early December, following the Australian Space Agency's announcement of the Demonstrator Moon to Mars Grants, the Industry Directors hosted the first in a series of webinars aimed at educating the space industry in what it takes to put a payload and spacecraft into orbit. This webinar was very well received and has had excellent feedback. See the event section in this newsletter for more details.

We are in the process of revamping our Partner Expectation Surveys. The initial survey provided very valuable information, but we now need to focus this information so we can better map our partners, Industry and Researchers, against our technology road map and strategies. This will significantly help us to bring our Industry and Research partners together in building strong partnerships and projects. We will also be identifying the priority areas our partners wish to pursue in the coming year. Expect to see the new survey in the new year with Sarah and I following up to see how everyone is going. We plan to make this an easy and efficient process.

**"Of importance to us is the ongoing assessment of the viability and commercial potential of the technology."**

# Aurora Start-Up Cluster



## Dr Tim Parsons

SmartSat has now formally launched 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 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) join together with Prof Andy Koronios and Peter Nikoloff representing SmartSat CRC as Aurora's sole custodian shareholder.

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.

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."



**Australia's hub  
for start-ups in  
the satellite and  
space industry.**

[auroraspacecluster.com](http://auroraspacecluster.com)

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



# Update from the Australian Space Agency

## Hayabusa2 mission accomplished

In the early hours of Sunday 6 December, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) welcomed an arrival back from space.

Woomera played host for a return capsule from the JAXA Hayabusa2 space craft. The spacecraft travelled for 6 years to the 4.6 billion year old asteroid Ryugu and then back to Earth. The aim of the mission was to retrieve samples that may unlock secrets to how our solar system formed.

After a spectacular fireball in the sky, seen from the mining town of Coober Pedy, the spacecraft's sample return capsule landed in the Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) in South Australia.

[Read more.](#)



## Australia signs NASA's Artemis Accords

Australia is among the first partner countries to join NASA on international cooperation with the signing of the Artemis Accords.

The Artemis Accords are grounded in the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 and establish a practical set of principles to guide space exploration cooperation among nations. The Artemis Accords aim to increase the safety of operations, reduce uncertainty, and promote the sustainable and beneficial use of space.

At the 71st International Astronautical Congress (IAC), NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine announced that Australia will join NASA in going back to the Moon safely and sustainably through the signing of the Artemis Accords.

[Read more here.](#)

## New Head of Australian Space Agency announced

Australia has found their new Head of the Australian Space Agency, Mr Enrico Palermo.

Currently the Chief Operating Officer of Virgin Galactic Holdings, Mr Palermo brings extensive experience to



the role. This includes forming The Spaceship Company, which designed the first spaceship for commercial service.

Mr Palermo will return home to Australia to start the role on 28 January 2021. He will replace Dr Megan Clark AC, who has led the Agency since July 2018.

[Read more.](#)

## Demonstrator Feasibility & Payload Qualification Facilities grants

The second program in the Government's \$150 million Moon to Mars initiative is open.

> The \$3.7 million Demonstrator Feasibility grants provide opportunities for businesses and researchers to scope out the feasibility of projects which have the potential to operate or support operations in space. This includes activities related to NASA's Moon to Mars space exploration endeavours.

[Read more on the Demonstrator Feasibility grants.](#)

> The payload qualification facilities grant, under the Space Infrastructure Fund is now open.

An audit of existing payload qualification and testing facilities in Australia found a range of level one capability. The audit identified gaps or limited availability in level two and level three capabilities. These higher level capabilities provide greater mission assurance, such as thermal vacuum, altitude control and ionising radiation.

The grant opportunity will focus on level two and/or three capabilities.

[Read more on the Payload Qualification Facilities grants.](#)

> Manufacturing Modernisation Fund (MMF) grants: Round 2 applications now open

As the first of the key initiatives to be launched under the Australian Government's \$1.5 billion Modern Manufacturing Strategy, Round two of the MMF is helping to modernise our manufacturing sector. It will stimulate business investment in new technologies and processes through co-funding capital investments to deliver jobs growth.

Australian businesses can apply for grants of \$100,000 - \$1 million to invest in new manufacturing technologies that will increase productivity, create new jobs and drive economic growth

[Read more on the Manufacturing Modernisation Fund grants here.](#)

# Awards

## Australian Space Awards 2020

The Australian Space Awards 2020 celebrated the best of Australia's space industry and recognised the outstanding contribution of academic institutions, researchers, professionals and businesses working within the space industry. The awards are a peer-reviewed recognition, and the judging panel included senior space industry and government leaders, academics, business executives, entrepreneurs and innovators.

SmartSat is honoured to be partnered with multiple winners of Australian Space Awards 2020. We congratulate all the winners for their outstanding work and contribution to the Australian Space Industry.

Special congratulations to the SmartSat partners who received the following awards:

- > Swinburne University of Technology (Academic of the Year, Prof. Alan Duffy)
- > Electro Optic Systems Pty Limited (Business of the Year – Large; Engineer of the Year, Alex Pollard; Scientist of the Year, James Bennett)
- > CSIRO (Research Organisation of the Year; Executive of the Year and Excellence Award, Dr Sarah Pearce)
- > Inovor Technologies (Innovator of the Year, Individual, Matthew Tetlow)
- > University of Technology Sydney (Researcher of the Year, Dr Joshua Chou)
- > University of Sydney (Academic Institution of the Year)
- > Gilmour Space Technologies (Business of the Year – SME; Launch Business of the Year )
- > Shoal Group Pty Ltd Group (Graduate Program of the Year)

SmartSat also received the Early Stage StartUp of the Year award

[See the full list of winners here.](#)



## Superstars of STEM -

### Eva Rodriguez Rodriguez

Congratulations to Eva Rodriguez Rodriguez for being chosen as one of 60 brilliant women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics as part of the acclaimed Superstars of STEM national program. Eva been an instrumental member of the SmartSat team over the past 12 months.

Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Karen Andrews officially announced those chosen for Science & Technology Australia's game-changing Superstars of STEM program in 2021-22. Science & Technology Australia Chief Executive Officer Misha Schubert said the program gave women in STEM stronger skills and confidence to step into expert commentary roles in the media.

"The Superstars of STEM program sets out to smash stereotypes of what a scientist, technologist, engineer or mathematician look like – these powerful role models show girls that STEM is for them."

Eva has previously been the recipient of ESA's Team Excellence Award (2014), and the APSEA Women's Leadership award regionally (Victoria) and nationally (Highly Commended) for her work strategically growing the Spatial sector in Australia.

Read Minister Andrews' press release, and learn more about this prestigious recognition of women in STEM [here](#).

# Events

## SmartSat Distinguished Speakers: Dr Jose Velazco (15 December)



### Technical Supervisor, Advanced RF & Optical Technologies Group, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Dr. Jose Velazco is the technical supervisor of the Advanced RF & Optical Technologies Group at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory where he conducts advanced

research and development of new RF and optical technologies and systems for telecommunications, as well as new instrumentation and radar for space exploration. He has over 25 years of experience conceiving and carrying out numerous R&D projects. During the past 5 years at JPL he conceived, developed and patented various cutting-edge technologies including an inter-spacecraft omnidirectional optical communicator and an optical ground terminal. He has also been involved in the development of advanced communications microwave and millimeter-wave transmitters as well as high sensitivity receivers for NASA's Deep Space Network. Prior to joining JPL, Dr. Velazco was the President and Chief Technologist of Microwave Technologies where he gained extensive experience implementing wideband receivers for electronic surveillance, megabit ground optical communicators, all-digital phase array radar and a multitude of vacuum tube devices, including a novel electron accelerator. Recently he has focused his work on the development of advanced multigigabit optical communicators for applications in space, smart cities and the internet of things.

Dr Velazco discussed his current research which focuses on various small spacecraft mission concepts for low-Earth-orbit, Lunar, and Deep Space applications with the goal of enabling an all-optical spaceborne network. He aims to implement a new inter planetary network architecture along the solar system that uses swarms of optically-interconnected spacecraft as networks for fast communications and novel science. He envisions the inter planetary network as the basis for the space internet.

## Defence Projects Seminar (20 November)

This seminar focused on how SmartSat CRC partners can develop research projects for the Defence and National Security sector. The seminar was delivered by two panels.

The first panel focused on the strategy and research priority areas within the Defence and National Security sector, including perspectives from industry engaged in this area. Andrew Seedhouse (DST Group and SmartSat Board member) presented a strategy map on behalf of the SmartSat Defence and National Security End User Advisory Board, of which he is Chair. Rod Smith (DST Group) outlined the themes, missions and delivery strategy of the Resilient Multi-Mission Space STaR Shot program. An overview of the SmartSat Technology Roadmap and relevant priority areas was presented by SmartSat Chief Research Officer,

Dr Nick Stacy. Industry perspective was presented by Professor Craig Smith of EOS Space Systems and outlined factors contributing to a new paradigm for defence industry centred around collaboration including within the CRC model.

The second panel focused on the components of 'project best practice' and showcased SmartSat research project P1-05, Compact Hybrid Optical-RF User Segment (CHORUS). Project participants, Dr Gerald Bolding (DST Group), Craig Smith (EM Solutions), Shena Howell (Shoal), and Professor Gottfried Lechner (UniSA) covered aspects including team formation, scope and alignment, systems approach, and IP management and utilisation. Lessons learned and things that worked well were discussed by the panel.

The workshop concluded with an overview of the SmartSat project formulation process, key aspects to consider, and submission dates and timelines.

## Webinar: Challenges of putting a payload in space (3 December)

This was the first in a series of webinars SmartSat will deliver to support organisations as they prepare for the challenges and requirements involved in developing space ready capabilities. Guest speakers from SmartSat CRC, Myriota, Nova Systems, UNSW and Inovor provided an overview of the NASA Systems Engineering mission life cycle, key regularity requirements, platform and launch options, and an overview of testing and validation expectations. Future webinars will focus deeper on Systems Engineering Reviews and milestones, the space environment and engineering challenges, spacecraft operations, space asset insurance, and other critical issues require to ensure a successful space mission.

## 10th Australian Space Forum (25 November)

Despite being forced to move entirely online only a week out from the event, the 10th Australian Space Forum proved itself once again to be the premier event on the Australian space calendar, launching the South Australian Space Sector Strategy.

The event, on Wednesday, 25 November 2020, attracted a massive 1,200 registrations from attendees around the globe, as well as world-class speakers from across Australia, Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom, making it the largest space forum attendance since its inception in 2017.

South Australian Premier Steven Marshall opened the online event by announcing the launch of the new Space Sector Strategy, which will drive the state's contribution to the Australian Space Agency goal of tripling the size of the nation's domestic space industry to \$12 billion by 2030.

Building on the opportunities of NewSpace—typified by commercial developments, access to venture capital, and disruption—the strategy aims to see South Australia designing, manufacturing, launching, and operating

SmallSats to deliver actionable, space-derived intelligence for sovereign Australian missions.

Also announced at Forum was the upcoming GRAVITY Challenge 03, which is expected to commence in 2021, expanding participation to eight countries due to the success of the recently concluded second challenge.

The newly established Andy Thomas Space Foundation, which aims to champion industry, advance space education and raise space awareness across the nation, was officially launched during the event.

In another nod to South Australia's only astronaut, the University of Adelaide announced the establishment of the Andy Thomas Centre for Space Resources, which will spearhead the optimisation of sustainable use of off-Earth resources.

Recorded sessions are now available to watch via the South Australian Space Industry Centre's YouTube Channel.

## Future Events

### **SmartSat Distinguished Speaker: Prof Ashish Mahabal, CalTech Friday 26 February, 10.30am (ACDT)**

Prof Ashish Mahabal is an astronomer (Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy) and Lead Computational and Data Scientist (Center for Data Driven Discovery) at the California Institute of Technology. His interests include Large Sky Surveys, Classification, Deep Learning, and Methodology Transfer to other complex-data fields like medicine.

He leads the ML for the Zwicky Transient Facility, a new large survey covering the entire Northern Sky every few nights. He also works with the Data Science group at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and is part of the Early Detection Research Network (EDRN) for cancer, and MCL.

Save the date - more information to come in 2021.

### **11th Australian Space Forum Date: 31 March 2021**

The 11th Australian Space Forum is planned to be held on 31 March 2021 under the auspices of the Andy Thomas Space Foundation.

Save the date - more details to follow in early 2021.

## **Advancing Earth Observation Forum Call for Abstracts**

The AEO Organising Committee welcomes abstract for AEO 2021, to be held 23- 24 August 2021 in Brisbane.

The Advancing Earth Observation Forum 2021 aims to cover the broad set of industries and activities that build, deliver, and use earth observation. The committee welcomes abstracts covering, but not limited to, the use of satellite, airborne and drone data in:

- Algorithm/process development transforming image data into useable information;
- Applications for specific industry, government, community and science;
- Sensor proposals, development and demonstration;
- Complete platform, sensor and system operations from local to global scales;
- Maintaining diversity in all activities in earth observation; and
- Education and community engagement.

[Read more on the Call For Abstracts here.](#)



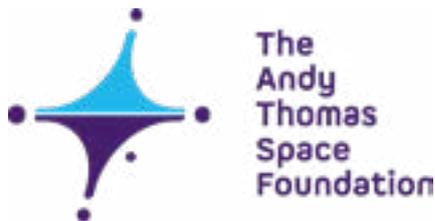
## Other News

### Launch of the Andy Thomas Space Foundation

The Andy Thomas Space Foundation was launched on November 20 to provide an interface between the space community and the wider Australian community. The new organisation will complement the work of the Australian Space Agency and the many institutions involved in space-related education and training.

Key targets will be the stimulation of support for space as a platform for innovation and economic growth, support for education and training from primary to tertiary levels, generation of career opportunities, and to promote space as a domain for international co-operation and peaceful co-existence.

Foundation CEO Nicola Sasanelli AM said the ATSF will support projects such as the Australian Space Discovery Centre – scheduled to open in Adelaide in March – and scholarships for international training and industry experience.



“The foundation will ignite the imagination and enthusiasm for space in this and future generations,” he said.

Sasanelli complimented South Australian NASA astronaut Andy Thomas for stamping the foundation with his name, as well as South Australian and Australian governments over several years for their vital support for space industry institutions and enterprises.

“Government support for space activities has been instrumental in Australia – and particularly South Australia – participating in the space community in a very meaningful way,” he said.

“That participation will take a step forward with the creation of the Andy Thomas Space Foundation, which is committed to driving progress in education, research and innovation to ensure that the space sector is a key contributor to economic transformation at state and national levels.”

[Read more here](#)

[View the ATSF website](#)



### Space Industry Association of Australia

Aurora interim board chair Dr Tim Parsons has been re-elected to a two-year term on the board of the Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA), and was subsequently elected chair to replace David Ball, Lockheed-Martin ANZ Regional Director, who has stepped down as chair and treasurer after an unbroken 17 years of service on the SIAA's all-volunteer board. Tim's election comes as the SIAA welcomes its first ever full-time CEO, James Brown, who previously led RSL NSW as Executive Chairman after a distinguished military career.

**USER INFORMED**

**INDUSTRY DRIVEN**

**RESEARCH POWERED**