



DENVER COUNCIL
on FOREIGN RELATIONS

Elevating Global Insights

THE FUTURE OF SPACE POLICY FORUM AND EXPO -

LUNAR LAUNCHPAD, THE RACE TO BUILD A BASE

**DENVER MUSEUM
OF NATURE AND
SCIENCE**

**OCTOBER 14TH, 2025
6-9PM**



ABOUT DCFR

The Denver Council on Foreign Relations is committed to heightening public awareness and building understanding of contemporary and emerging international issues. By providing education on global affairs to our members and the public, the Denver Council on Foreign Relations helps people understand international issues and appreciate their local impact.

We do this by hosting a range of events, forums, and discussions, designed to help people gain access to experts on national and international issues. We connect people from business, education, government, and non-profits to promote understanding, dialogue, and active participation in shaping our interconnected world.

DCFR is a community committed to an open, inclusive, forward-looking exploration of global issues.

Learn more at www.denvercfr.org

SPEAKERS



ANGEL ABBUD-MADRID
DIRECTOR, SPACE RESOURCES
PROGRAM AT THE CO SCHOOL
OF MINES

Dr. Angel Abbud-Madrid is the Director of the Center for Space Resources at the Colorado School of Mines, where he leads a research program focused on the human and robotic exploration of space and the utilization of its resources. He is also the Director of the Space Resources Graduate Program, aimed at educating scientists, engineers, economists, entrepreneurs, and policymakers in the field of extraterrestrial resources. He has over 35 years of experience conducting experiments in NASA's low-gravity facilities, such as drop towers, parabolic-flight aircraft, the Space Shuttle, and the International Space Station. In 2004, he received the NASA Astronauts' Personal Achievement Award for his contributions to the success of human space flight.

Dr. Abbud-Madrid is the President of the Space Resources Roundtable, an international organization that brings together interested parties to discuss all aspects of space, lunar, asteroidal, and planetary resources. In 2018, he was appointed as an Observer and Technical Panel member of The Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group and in 2020 as member of the Committee on Planetary Protection of The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. From 2019 to 2023 he served as external faculty in the Interdisciplinary Space Master at the University of Luxembourg and in 2023 he received an honorary Adjunct Professor position at The University of Adelaide in South Australia.

SPEAKERS

JASON HOPKINS
DIRECTOR OF EXPLORATION
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND
EXPLORATION AT LOCKHEED
MARTIN



Jason Hopkins is Director of Exploration Business Development and Exploration, Products and Technology Mission Strategy and Advanced Capabilities (MSAC) Deputy. Jason began his career at Lockheed Martin supporting mission operation, mission planning and systems engineering. He translated his mission operations experience into program management for a multitude of space and ground systems development programs for NASA, DoD, and the Intelligence Community.

As a civil servant, he worked as a Flight Test Integration Manager on NASA's Orion program for Exploration Flight Test-1 and managed launch vehicle integration operations in the Vehicle Assembly Building at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. He worked in the US Senate for Senator Bill Nelson on the Science and Space Subcommittee as a NASA Fellow. He also worked at Ball Aerospace leading the strategic growth of their space security and resiliency mission area.

Prior to becoming the Exploration Director, he led Strategy and Business Development for Integrated Missions and Software Solutions in the Global Situational Awareness MSAC. He holds a BS degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Aerospace Engineering and a MS degree in Systems Engineering from George Washington University.

SPEAKERS



SKIP SMITH

**CHAIR OF THE SPACE AND SATELLITE
INDUSTRY GROUP GREENBERG
TRAURIG**

Milton “Skip” Smith, is an Air Force Academy graduate with a doctorate in Space Law. He is currently the Chair of the Space and Satellite Industry Group at Greenberg Traurig, and has more than 40 years of experience advising clients on risk management and other issues related to the aerospace industry. Skip handles complex transactional matters and disputes, nationally and internationally. His combination of skills and experience, coupled with an in-depth understanding of legal and regulatory systems, makes him a sought-after advisor in the aerospace industry.

He serves a broad spectrum of clients, including large corporations, startups, manufacturers, and launch service providers. During his Air Force tenure, he held significant roles such as Director of Space Law at Space Command and Chief of Space Law for the Air Force.

Skip assists both national and international clients in navigating legal issues from the planning and operation of space assets to launch and on-orbit services, space insurance, and government contract and regulatory matters. He has negotiated and litigated disputes amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars. He negotiates and drafts satellite design, manufacture, sale and launch agreements as well as on-orbit servicing agreements including: hosted payload, life extension, refueling and debris removal. He also supports deal teams in evaluation of contracts and other key documents.

SPEAKERS

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND
SPACE LAW, SECURE WORLD
FOUNDATION



Christopher Johnson is the Director of Legal Affairs and Space Law at the Secure World Foundation, and a Professor of Law (Adjunct) at the Georgetown University Law Center, where he co-teaches the Space Law Seminar.

Mr. Johnson is also a Field Editor at the Journal of Space Safety Engineering (JSSE), on the Board of Editors of the journal Air and Space Law, on the Academic Review Board of the Cambridge International Law Journal, and serves on the US Board of Directors of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC). He was also a Core Expert and Rule Drafter in the MILAMOS project, and an observer at the Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group. He is also a Faculty Member at the International Space University (ISU) and a Member of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL).

Mr. Johnson has written widely on space law and policy issues, and represents the Secure World Foundation at the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). He is also an external PhD candidate at Leiden University's International Institute of Air and Space Law, writing a monograph on the international legal order for the Moon.

MODERATED BY:



STEPHANIE BURKE
DIRECTOR, CENTER OF EQUITY
AND EXCELLENCE IN AVIATION
DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Stephanie Burke is currently the Director of the Center of Equity and Excellence in Aviation at Denver International Airport (DEN). She has spent over a decade in the transportation sector and joined the aviation industry in late 2021. In her current role, she leads two of the key programs within DEN's Center of Equity and Excellence in Aviation: Career Pathways, dedicated to fostering an aviation talent pipeline, and Research and Innovation initiatives aimed at conducting industry research and identifying best practices.

She has been a public sector employee for over 15 years and has worked in a variety of industries such as parks and recreation, law enforcement and security, public transportation, and now aviation. A common theme in the work she has done is utilizing her skillset to develop people and manage projects.

Stephanie holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology, Law, and Society from the University of California Irvine, a Master's degree in Leadership and Management from the University of La Verne, a Project Management Certificate from the University of California Los Angeles and is a certified Project Management Professional.

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The Denver Museum of Nature & Science is a fascinating cultural institution that offers an engaging blend of science, nature, and history. Located in City Park in Denver, Colorado, it features a wide array of exhibits covering everything from dinosaur fossils and ancient Egypt to space exploration and Colorado's natural ecosystems. The museum is home to interactive exhibits, Infinity HD theater, and a planetarium, making it a dynamic destination for both kids and adults. With a strong focus on education and hands-on learning, it's an ideal place to explore science in a fun and immersive way while enjoying spectacular views of the nearby Rocky Mountains.



Lockheed Martin has about 12,000 employees in Colorado, mostly in the Boulder, Denver, and Colorado Springs metro areas, and we have suppliers in other areas including Durango and Grand Junction. Lockheed Martin builds things people use every day such as weather satellites, GPS satellites, and communications satellites. We also build a variety of systems that support national security, and we build exploration spacecraft, both robotic and human spaceflight. One of our chief programs is in support of NASA's Artemis Program that will send the first women and the first person of color to the moon - and eventually carry humanity on to Mars. 2022's Artemis I uncrewed test flight to the moon was a success, and the crewed Artemis II mission to orbit the moon is scheduled for early 2026, so be on the lookout for that!

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Since opening on Feb. 28, 1995, Denver International Airport (DEN) has become one of the world's busiest airports. In 2022, 69.3 million passengers passed through DEN, making DEN the world's third-busiest airport during the global pandemic. In 2023, DEN welcomed a record-breaking 77.8 million passengers, a 12.3% increase over the previous year. DEN is Colorado's primary economic engine, generating \$36.4 billion in annual economic impact for the state.



Advanced Space (<https://advancedspace.com/>) enables sustainable space exploration, development, and settlement through software and services that enhance the fundamentals of spaceflight. Serving commercial, civil, international, and national security customers, the company provides mission design, flight optimization, and systems engineering, along with AI/ML and autonomy solutions backed by flight-proven applications. With rapid, turn-key mission offerings and proven success in cislunar and Martian operations, Advanced Space operates NASA's CAPSTONE™ mission and is the Prime contractor for AFRL's Oracle program, continually Delivering Innovation to Orbit™ and beyond.

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Josef Korbel School of Global and Public Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Ranked 12th in the world for master's programs in international relations and 20th for undergraduate programs in international studies by Foreign Policy magazine, the Josef Korbel School of Global and Public Affairs shapes the next generation of global leaders through programs rooted in interdisciplinary education and experiential learning experiences. With world-renowned faculty, cutting-edge research centers, and an expansive global alumni network, Korbel equips students with the knowledge, mentorship, and opportunities needed to make a meaningful impact locally and globally.

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