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## ASCENDxTexas

**NEXT STEPS IN THE LEO-TO-LUNAR VOYAGE**

South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center  
14–15 February 2024 | Houston, TX

### PROGRAM GUIDE

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AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2024

1300 HRS CT  
**WELCOME**  
Julie Van Kleeck, ASCEND Executive Producer, AIAA

1305 HRS CT  
**OPENING REMARKS AND PROGRESS OF THE PAST YEAR**  
Vanessa Wyche, Director, NASA Johnson Space Center

1315 HRS CT  
**PATHFINDING OUR OFF-WORLD FUTURE:  
AN AIAA SPACE DOMAIN STRATEGY UPDATE**  
Dan Dumbacher, CEO, AIAA

1330 HRS CT  
**AGENCY ACQUISITION MODELS – SHAPING SPACE  
INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND COLLABORATION**  
Karla Smith Jackson, Senior Procurement Executive, Deputy  
Chief Acquisition Officer, and Assistant Administrator for the  
Office of Procurement, NASA



VIEW THE FULL  
PROGRAM ONLINE

**MOON-TO-MARS STRATEGY – EVOLVING PROJECTS,  
TIMELINES, AND ARCHITECTURAL UPDATE**  
Nujoud Merancy, Deputy Associate Administrator for Strategy &  
Architecture, NASA

1430 HRS CT  
**NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK**  
Sponsored by JES Tech

1500 HRS CT  
**TEXAS AS A CASE STUDY – SPACE-FORWARD STATE COOPERATION**  
MODERATOR: Brian Freedman, President, Bay Area Houston  
Economic Partnership (BAHEP)  
PANELISTS: Dr. Greg Bonnen, M.D., Chair, House Appropriations  
Committee, Texas House of Representatives  
Adriana Cruz, Executive Director, Texas Economic Development  
& Tourism – Office of Governor Greg Abbott

1545 HRS CT  
**CHARTING A COURSE FOR FUTURE SPACE RESEARCH**  
MODERATOR: Gwen Griffin, CEO, Griffin Communications  
PANELISTS: Nancy Currie-Gregg, Director, Texas A&M Space Institute  
Vanessa Wyche, Director, NASA Johnson Space Center

1630 HRS CT  
**NETWORKING & WELCOME RECEPTION**  
Sponsored by Jacobs



THURSDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2024

0715 HRS CT  
**NETWORKING BREAKFAST**  
Sponsored by City of League City

0745 HRS CT  
**CAPITAL AND CAPITOL SUPPORT FOR SPACE RESEARCH**  
MODERATOR: Elaine Gresham, Director, Government Space  
Division, BryceTech  
PANELISTS: Jennifer Buchli, Chief Scientist, ISS, NASA  
David Baumann, Director, Human Research Program, NASA  
Shelby Hritz, Director, Industry Engagement, NASA

0845 HRS CT  
**DEMAND SIGNALS FOR A VIABLE COMMERCIAL LUNAR MARKET**  
MODERATOR: Jennifer Lopez, Program Specialist, NASA  
PANELISTS: Chris Boger, Program Manager, Space Systems, Draper  
Tim Crain, Chief Technology Officer, Intuitive Machines  
Dan Hendrickson, Vice President, Business Development,  
Astrobotic Technology  
Jana Spruce, Vice President, Spacecraft, Firefly Aerospace

0945 HRS CT  
**ANNOUNCEMENT: AN UPDATE ON EXPLORATION PARK**

1015 HRS CT  
**NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK**  
Sponsored by Barrios

1030 HRS CT  
**OPERATING IN AN EVOLVING SPACE LANDSCAPE: WHAT  
NEXT GENERATION OUTPOSTS CAN LEARN FROM ISS**  
MODERATOR: Stephanie Buskirk Dudley, Manager, Mission  
Integration & Utilization, Gateway Program, NASA  
PANELISTS: T.J. Creamer, Flight Director & Astronaut, NASA  
Mary Lawrence, Deputy Manager, Vehicle Office, ISS Program, NASA  
Courtenay McMillan, Manager, Mission Integration &  
Operations, ISS Program, NASA  
Ryan Prouty, Manager, Research Integration, ISS Program, NASA

1130 HRS CT  
**BUILDING ON THE ISS LEGACY—COMMERCIAL  
OPPORTUNITIES IN LEO**  
MODERATOR: Angela Hart, Manager, Commercial Low Earth  
Orbit Program, NASA  
PANELISTS: Bill Beckman, Director, NASA Programs, The Boeing  
Company  
Nick Cummings, Director, Advanced Development for Civil  
Space, SpaceX  
Tim Kopra, Chief Executive Officer, Nanoracks  
Randy Lillard, Program Manager, Orbital Reef, Blue Origin  
Matt Ondler, President, Axiom Space



Wi-Fi Name: Meeting Wi-Fi Password: MTGSSHR

1215 HRS CT  
**NETWORKING LUNCH AND  
INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS**  
Sponsored by Cimarron

1400 HRS CT  
**ACCELERATING A GLOBAL SPACE ECOSYSTEM**  
MODERATOR: Raphael Grau, Deputy Manager, External  
Integration Office, ISS Program, NASA  
PANELISTS: Debra Facktor, Head of U.S. Space Systems, Airbus  
U.S. Space and Defense  
Salvatore Grignano, Sr. Marketing and Promotion Officer, Italian  
Trade Agency  
Veronica La Regina, Director General, Space Cargo  
Seamus Tuohy, Senior Director, Business Development, Robotics  
& Space Operations, MDA



Come prepared for the Interactive Discussions—  
review last year's topics and findings here.

1445 HRS CT  
**NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK**  
Sponsored by Oceaneering

1500 HRS CT  
**REPORT-OUTS FROM INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS**  
Charles Stegemoeller, Director, NASA Business Development  
and Capture Management, Leidos

1530 HRS CT  
**PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER:  
DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES IN LEO-TO-LUNAR**  
MODERATOR: Camille Wardrop, CEO, Arusha Space  
PANELISTS: Brad Cothran, President, Cimarron  
Kelly Page, President, Barrios Technology  
Kirk Shireman, Vice President, Lunar Exploration Campaign,  
Lockheed Martin  
Dennis Stone, Vice President, Business Development, Vast



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