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The University of Texas at Austin
Strauss
CENTER
for International Security and Law



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AEROSPACE

**12TH ANNUAL SPACE TRAFFIC
CONFERENCE**

OPERATIONAL ASSURANCE FOR ALL

Day 1: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

- 7:30 am Registration: Bass Lecture Hall Lobby, LBJ School of Public Affairs
Breakfast: *Sponsored by LeoLabs*
- 8:30 am **Welcome**
Moriba Jah, *Program Lead, Strauss Center for International Security and Law*
Danielle Wood, *Associate Professor, MIT*
John Schumacher, *President, International Academy of Astronautics*
- 8:40 am **Opening Remarks**
Diane Howard, *Principal, sur l'espace PLLC*
- 8:50 am **Keynote Introduction**
Nate Dailey, *Chief Strategist for Space Program Development and Integration, MITRE*
- Keynote Speaker**
Dr. Darren McKnight, *Senior Technical Fellow, LeoLabs*
- 9:20 am **Theme 1: Baselineing & Current State – As We Are**
Panel A: Baselineing
Moderator: Stewart Bain, *NorthStar Earth & Space*
 - 4 Waves of the Kessler Syndrome – LEO Population Evolution Features - Darren McKnight
 - Assessing Infrastructural Infringement on Economic Activity from Spaceborne Factors - Philip Cunio
- 10:00 am Presentation of Aerospace Policy Solutions, LLC Award in Space Policy
- 10:10 am Coffee Break: *Sponsored by Aerospace Policy Solutions, LLC*
- 10:25 am **Panel B: Current State**
Moderator: Tahara Dawkins, *Astroscale*
 - Compliance to ITU Milestone Approach to Non-GEO Assignments - Patrick Shinnars
 - Registration Treaty Compliance - Josh Ferrier
 - Comparing and Contrasting the Proposed EU Space Act with US Space Safety and Sustainability Laws & Regulation: A Study Update - Mick Gleason
 - Spaceport Environmental Policy in the New Space Era - Shannon Sylvie Abelson
 - Navigating Regulatory Balance in a Commercialized Space Era: Government Challenges Under the 2025 Executive Order - Diane Howard
- 11:45 am Platinum Sponsor Video: The Aerospace Corporation

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- 11:50 am Lunch: *Sponsored by The Aerospace Corporation*
- 12:50 pm **Roundtable: Looking Back and Looking Forward**
- Kevin O’Connell, *CEO, Space Economy Rising LLC*
 - Stewart Bain, *CEO, NorthStar Earth & Space*
 - Ruth Stilwell, *CEO, Aerospace Policy Solutions, LLC*
- 1:30 pm **Theme 2: Through the National Air Space – Up and Back**
- Moderator: Elaine Blount, *NASA*
- Modeling Alternative Approaches for Integration of Commercial Launches into the National Air Space - Stephen Marley
 - The Seamless Information Access and Interchange Advantage: Enhancing European Air Traffic Safety through Real-time Space Traffic Information Management - Frank Morlang
 - Applying the Epistemic Support-Point Filter (ESPF) to NEXRAD Radar Data for Robust Detection of Reentering Space Objects - Anirudh Selvam
 - Data Points for Reentry - Araz Feyzi
 - Assessing the Impact of Uncontrolled Space Object Re-entries on Air Traffic Management Operations - Wissam Chalabi
 - Airspace Modeling for Reentry Authorization - Ruth Stilwell
- 2:45 pm Coffee Break: *Sponsored by Astroscale*
- 3:00 pm **Student Panel: Orbit Awareness with Higher Orbits**
- Moderator: Michelle Lucas, *Higher Orbits*
- Kiera Fehr, *NC State*
 - Brianna Ortiz, *Texas A&M Academy at Midland College*
 - Eva Estrada, *Early College High School at Midland College, TX*
 - Amelia “Josie” Choulant, *Ridgeview High School, FL*
- 4:00 pm **Spotlight Talk: Interdisciplinary Lessons Learned from the Kessler Syndrome**
- Judge John McLellan Marshall, *Senior Judge, Fourteenth Judicial District of Texas*
- 4:20 pm **Keynote Speaker**
- Mariel Borowitz, *Director, Center for Space Policy and International Relations, Georgia Institute of Technology*
- 4:50 pm **Closing**
- Diamond Sponsor Video: MITRE
- 5:00 pm Networking Reception: *Sponsored by MITRE*

Day 2: Thursday, February 19, 2026

- 7:30 am Registration: Bass Lecture Hall Lobby
- Breakfast: *Sponsored by NorthStar Earth & Space*
- 8:00 am **Welcome**
- Miles Lifson, *The Aerospace Corporation*

8:10 am	Keynote Speaker (virtual) Aarti Holla-Maini, <i>Director, United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs</i>
8:40 am	Theme 3: Modeling for Assurance – Predictions and Probabilities Moderator: Araz Feyzi, <i>Kayhan Space</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation of Debris Cloud Expansion Using Metric-based Analysis - Francesca Ottoboni Estimating Number of Risk Reduction Maneuvers - Owen Marshall Autonomous Rendezvous and Proximity Operations with GEO Servicing Satellites Using the EVDT Systems Engineering Framework - Dinuri Rupasinghe Initial Orbit Determination and Refinement of Cislunar Targets with A Priori Dynamical Constraints - Paola Grattagliano
10:15 am	Coffee Break: <i>Sponsored by COMSPOC</i>
10:25 am	Theme 4: Managing for Assurance – Capacity and the Circular Space Economy Moderator: Mahhad Nayer, <i>Purdue & Miles Lifson, The Aerospace Corporation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Circular Space Economy as a Foundation for Operational Assurance in STM - Robert MacPherson OrbX: A Framework for Orbital Capacity Characterization - Yasir Latif Enhancing Trust in AI-Human Enabled Space Missions, Using Transparency and Traceability - Harvey Reed Scoring Space Sustainability: A Public Data Rating for Every Object in LEO - Seth Cornelius Building Trust for the Space Ecosystem: Advancing Provenance and Compliance from Terrestrial to Orbital Supply Chains- Charlie McGillis
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Theme 5: Theory & Constructs – As It Could Be Moderator: Janna Lewis, <i>Astroscale</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Securing Dual-Use Space Sensor Networks for Federated STM: Cybersecurity, Governance, and Operational Assurance - Alice Zhang Reimagining Orbital Order: An Interdisciplinary Framework for Sustainable Space Development and Debris Mitigation - Melanie McComb Externalities from Space Traffic - Augustin Ndongmo Space Debris Credits: A Market-based Framework for Governance and Environmental Stewardship in Orbit - Maxime Kadri Interconnected Futures: One Health, Indigenous Knowledge, and Reframing Space Sustainability and Integrating Indigenous Stewardship Principles with SSA: The S.O.B.E.R. Mission - Antarpreet Kaur
2:25 pm	Closing Reflections Mark Skinner, <i>The Aerospace Corporation</i> Connor Sale, <i>UT Austin</i>
2:55 pm	Closing Remarks Diane Howard