



New Frontiers Diplomacy Forum Speaker Bios

Keynote Speaker



Meredith McKay serves as the Deputy Associate Administrator in the Office of International and Interagency Relations (OIIR). OIIR is responsible for executive leadership and direction of NASA's international and interagency activities and partnerships for NASA's mission areas; interactions between NASA and other executive branch offices, departments, and agencies, including the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Security Council, the Departments of State and War; and administration of export control and international technology transfer programs.

Ms. McKay began her NASA career over 20 years ago with positions in the Policy and Plans and International Space Station Divisions of the Space Operations Mission Directorate.

After joining OIIR, she served in positions of increasing responsibility, including as a regional team lead and division director. She also served as the agency's acting deputy chief of staff, where she helped lead the coordination and execution of initiatives, programs, and policies in critical areas of concern to the acting administrator and agency leadership. Prior to joining NASA, Ms. McKay served in the arts and culture non-profit sector, education, and in political campaign organizations.

She has received numerous group and individual achievement awards, including the NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

Keynote Moderator



Jenna McMullin is the senior vice president and chief communications officer for Lockheed Martin Corporation. In this role, she leads global communications strategies and activities across the corporation's four business areas and international footprint and provides strategic counsel to Lockheed Martin's executive leadership team.

McMullin joined Lockheed Martin in 2020, most recently serving as vice president of Communications for Lockheed

Martin's Space business. She led the strategic development and execution of communications spanning space exploration, satellites and spacecraft, mission solutions, national security programs and strategic and missile defense systems.

Prior to joining Lockheed Martin in 2020, McMullin served as the vice president of Communications for Boeing Defense, Space and Security. Her 12-year career with Boeing also included leadership of communications for the CTO and CIO, Boeing Capital Corporation and the company's centennial milestone, among other roles.

McMullin also brings experience as corporate communications lead for DISH Network, where she led Spanish-language public relations for DISH Latino and helped develop the company's corporate citizenship program, DISH Cares.

McMullin began her career as a civilian public affairs officer for the U.S. Air Force, including assignments at Air Force Space Command and the 21st Space Wing at Peterson Air Force Base (AFB) in Colorado and the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin AFB in Florida.

She holds a bachelor's degree in public relations from Drake University and an MBA from George Mason University. She also graduated with honors from the Department of Defense Information School Public Affairs Officer Qualification Course.

McMullin serves as a member of the board of directors for WorldDenver and is a member of the Public Relations Society of America and Page Up of the Page Society. She was also a cohort participant in and completed the U.S. Army War College National Security Seminar.

Executive Panel



As Director of Quality and Mission Assurance at ispace-U.S., **Mo Jalaly** leads efforts to ensure mission readiness, reliability, and operational excellence across commercial lunar exploration programs. Drawing on leadership experience spanning both the aerospace and automotive industries, he brings a systems perspective to managing risk, building resilient organizations, and delivering complex missions. His work requires close collaboration with commercial, government, and international partners across the United States, Europe, and Asia, helping bridge technical, organizational, and cultural boundaries to advance the communications, logistics, and infrastructure that will enable the next era of lunar exploration and commerce.



Dr. Clare Martin joined Astroscale U.S. in August 2019 as Executive Vice President. She brings many years of experience in space technology management, operations, and engineering to support the foundation and growth of Astroscale U.S. Dr. Martin previously held the position of the Director, Orbital Solutions at General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems (GA-EMS). She was responsible for the management and technical performance of the engineering staff and delivery of projects, including planning and managing technical and programmatic solutions to ensure quality, business, and financial objectives were met.

Prior to joining GA-EMS, Dr. Martin was the Chief Operating Officer at Surrey Satellite Technology US, where she led the Surrey project management and engineering teams. As a member of the Surrey Satellite US Executive Team, she managed the bidding, negotiation, and execution of projects, and was responsible for ensuring the company's cost-effective methods were appropriately applied to the execution of programs.

Dr. Martin transferred to Surrey Satellite US from Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd. in the United Kingdom, where she held several positions including the Head of Telecommunications and Navigation business unit, encompassing the Galileo payload program. Before Surrey, she was a Project Manager and Scientist at QinetiQ.

Dr. Martin earned a Master of Science in Astrophysics and a Doctorate in Mathematics and Computational Sciences from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. In 2024, she was appointed to serve a two-year term on NOAA's inaugural Advisory Committee on Excellence in Space (ACES) and she also is a member of AIAA's ASCEND Guiding Coalition. She loves to explore and adventure in the mountains of Colorado.



Rita Peterson is not just a leader—she's a force in the National Security and Defense industry. As a woman and powerful trailblazer, she has shattered barriers and redefined what's possible, forging a legacy built on innovation, resilience, and purpose. Grounded in her ancestral roots and guided by a fierce commitment to equity, Rita champions economic empowerment and creates pathways for multifaceted talent to rise, thrive, and lead.

For two decades, Rita has helmed Caribou Thunder, a dynamic engineering services powerhouse supporting the Nation's most critical missions. Under her visionary leadership, the company has become a trusted partner to the National Security, Aerospace, Defense, and Intelligence Communities, delivering agile, high-impact solutions in some of the most complex environments imaginable.

A bold entrepreneur and strategic thinker, Rita has turned adversity into advantage, propelling Caribou Thunder to the forefront of innovation in a fiercely competitive field. Her ability to navigate and lead through industry headwinds has not only sustained the business but elevated it into a beacon of excellence in a market where small businesses are often overlooked.

Alongside her highly dedicated and talented team, Rita continues to lead transformative projects that enhance our industry posture and safeguard our future. Her story is not just one of success; it's a blueprint for what's possible when vision, grit, and mission converge.

Now, she invites fellow leaders and partners to join her: to collaborate, to innovate, and to shape a more secure, inclusive, and prepared future. Together, we can redefine the Defense landscape and ensure that tomorrow's solutions are powered by today's shared commitment to excellence.



Moderator: Peter Martinez is the Executive Director of the Secure World Foundation. He has extensive experience in multilateral space diplomacy, space policy formulation and space regulation. He also has extensive experience in capacity building in space science and technology and in workforce development.

Prior to joining SWF, from 2011 - 2018 he chaired the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS) Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities that negotiated a set of international consensus guidelines to promote the safety and sustainability of space operations. In 2012 and 2013 he was South Africa's representative on the United Nations Group of Government Experts on transparency and confidence-building measures for space activities. From 2010 – 2015 he was the Chairman of the South African Council for Space Affairs, the national regulatory authority for space activities in South Africa. From 2014 - 2018 he was Professor of Space Studies at the University of Cape Town. Before this he acquired fifteen years of executive level management experience and associated general management skills gained in the research and development environment of the South African Astronomical Observatory, a National Facility under the South African National Research Foundation.

He is a member of the International Academy of Astronautics, the International Institute of Space Law, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and an Honorary Professor at the University of Cape Town. He has authored or co-authored over 200 publications on topics in space policy, space sustainability, astronomy, space research, space law and space policy. A selection of some of Dr Martinez's recent publications is available [here](#).

Dr. Martinez holds a BSc in Physics and Applied Mathematics, a BSc(Hons) in Materials Engineering, a masters in astronomy with distinction, and a PhD in astronomy, all from

the University of Cape Town. He has also attended several executive management courses and the International Space University's Summer Studies Program, where he developed his interest in space policy and law.

Government Leaders Panel



Adeeb Khan is a results-driven leader who has advanced economic growth, social impact, and organizational excellence across the private, public, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors. He is currently the executive director of Denver Economic Development and Opportunity (DEDO), appointed by Mayor Mike Johnston in 2023. In this role, he leads initiatives in business attraction, workforce development, downtown revitalization, global commerce, and strategies to enhance Denver's shared prosperity and economic competitiveness.

Adeeb brings extensive leadership experience across multiple sectors. As executive director of the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, he oversaw \$30 million in grants and impact investments to advance health equity statewide. He simultaneously served as Delta Dental of Colorado's chief brand and impact officer, leading marketing, communications, ESG, and external affairs. Previously, as senior director of corporate social responsibility at TIAA, Adeeb developed award-winning ESG, corporate responsibility, and diversity and inclusion programs, and launched TIAA's community engagement initiative, TIAA Serves.

Earlier in his career, Adeeb led transformative community programs at Mile High United Way, including the expansion of the Colorado Reading Corps, now one of the largest AmeriCorps programs in the state, and at the American Red Cross, where he launched Save a Life Denver, one of the nation's largest public access to defibrillation programs. He began his professional journey in the family hospitality business, holding leadership roles across multiple properties and overseeing operations, construction, and ownership transitions.

Adeeb currently serves on the boards of Visit Denver, the Downtown Denver Partnership, the Denver Preschool Program, the Biennial of the Americas, and the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver, and is an appointed commissioner for Colorado's Early Childhood Leadership Commission. He holds a BA in Communication from the University of Southern California and an MBA from the University of Denver. He is a Leadership Denver graduate where he was elected class speaker and also a Colorado Governor's Fellow.

He has been recognized as a Downtown Champion by the Downtown Denver Partnership, a Chamber Champion by the Denver Metro Chamber, a Denver Business

Journal 40 Under 40 honoree, GenXYZ Top 25 Young Professional by ColoradoBiz Magazine, Community Changemaker of the Year by Colorado Youth for a Change, and a 9NEWS Leader of the Year finalist.



Eve Lieberman was appointed by the Governor to serve as the Executive Director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) in January 2023. She works alongside OEDIT staff across eleven divisions and in collaboration with economic development partners across the state to promote economic growth and long-term job creation through funding and financial programs, training, consulting and informational resources across industries and regions. Under Eve's leadership, OEDIT updated its mission to "empower all to thrive in Colorado's economy," advancing the state's commitment to building an economy that works for everyone."

As Executive Director, Eve has championed economic competitiveness programs that ensure businesses of all sizes have access to capital and robust talent pipelines that train Colorado's workforce in in-demand skills. She has also led OEDIT staff to implement programs to increase the state's supply of affordable and attainable housing so Coloradans can live in communities they love and close to their jobs.

Together with OEDIT staff, Eve has developed and advanced strategic partnerships with higher education, private industry, startup incubators, and state and federal agencies to secure once-in-a-generation federal funding opportunities and grow Colorado's advanced industries.



Moderator: Consul General Sarah Quigley represents Canada in the U.S. Mountain West, covering Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. Sarah and the Consulate team work to strengthen trade and economic ties; enhance political, academic and cultural links; and assist Canadians visiting or living in the five-state territory. Her office is based in Denver, Colorado.

Before assuming her post at the Consulate General of Canada in Denver, Sarah was the Acting Consul General in Sydney, Australia. At Global Affairs Canada, she has served in the Office of the Deputy Minister of International Trade and in the International Law Bureau. Outside of headquarters, Sarah has served in Washington, DC as Special Advisor to the Canadian Ambassador to the United States and in the Pacific Regional Office in Vancouver.