

The Aerospace & Defense Forum



Facilitating Business Communication, Collaboration, & Commerce

From Space Science to the Emerging Space Economy: A Personal Journey

Presenter:

Dr. Leon Alkalai
CEO Mandala Space Ventures, LLC
CEO, Continuum Space Systems, Inc.
GP, Explorer 1 Venture Fund

Ventura County Chapter Meeting

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Webinar: 8:00-9:00 am pacific time

[Click here to register](#)

Both members and non-members must register to attend.

ACCESS INFORMATION will be provided to registrants at the bottom of the registration confirmation email from Eventbrite. A reminder email with the access information will be sent to registrants the day before the event.

The event will be recorded and made available for download by A&D Forum members.

Since the Ventura County Chapter is a new chapter, attendance will be free for its first few months.

You will receive multiple invitations, regardless of whether you have already registered. Please do not register more than once!

August 26, 2021 Meeting

- **Access information** may be found near the bottom of the confirmation email you will receive from Eventbrite after registering.
- There will also be an email sent to all registrants the day before the event.
- Please ensure your mike is muted and your video is off - icons on the lower left of your window.
- Questions will be welcomed via the Chat function.
- During registration you will be asked whether you want



From Space Science to the Emerging Space Economy: A Personal Journey

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This presentation will present a personal journey from a career dedicated to robotic space exploration and space science at NASA's JPL, into the exciting world of space entrepreneurship.

Without any doubt, we are in the early stages of a lasting revolution in space commercialization and democratization. Whereas Lower Earth Orbit (LEO) is the immediate and obvious destination for space commercialization, as evidenced by the plethora of applications including: existing and emerging constellations of Earth orbiting satellites for imaging, weather prediction, climate change monitoring, broadband communications; data and compute centers in space; in-space manufacturing; space tourism; in-orbit servicing and assembly; defense, space intelligence and situational awareness; secure global economic transactions, and much more.

There is also plenty of opportunities in the emerging Lunar and cis-Lunar economy including in-situ resource prospecting and

your contact information distributed to other attendees. This is a replacement for copying and distributing business cards at chapter meetings.

- For this meeting, we will not be doing individual elevator speech introductions.

Feel free to pass this invitation on to others you think would be interested.

Ventura County Chapter Steering Committee

- **Gerardo Broussi** (Chapter Chair), Managing Director, Brainspark Consulting
- **Michael Spuzzillo**, Sr. Project Engineer, Parker Hannifin
- **David Conrad**, Vice President Business Development, PTI Technologies
- **Brian Barker**, President & CEO, Hummingbird Aero
- **Robert Gleason**, Sector Deputy Director, Engineering, Aircraft Group, Moog Inc.

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utilization, human habitation, and long-term utilization of the Moon for both research and economic development.

What is very encouraging is that there is a growing ecosystem of entrepreneurs launching new start-ups that are disrupting the existing marketplace and creating new opportunities for all interested in space. Furthermore, the scale of venture capital fueling innovation and entrepreneurship into the marketplace is stimulating growth and exuberance at the same time. Southern California and Los Angeles in particular, with its unique and long history in space exploration, provide a fertile ground for planting the seeds and incubating start-ups for the growing space economy. This new generation of space pioneers is both excited about making a difference in space and improving the quality of living on planet Earth for all of humanity.

Presenter



Dr. Leon Alkalai is a retired Fellow of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), California Institute of Technology. He joined JPL in 1989 after receiving his PhD in Computer Science from UCLA. His 32-year career at JPL

included technology development in micro-avionics, miniaturized spacecraft systems, systems-on-a-chip technologies, small satellites, in-situ robotic planetary missions, mission formulation, strategic planning, and strategic partnerships.

Leon Alkalai was the JPL Capture Lead for the GRAIL mission to the Moon which

- **Michael Boyle**, President, BOBsearch
- **Paul Weisbrich**, Managing Director, D.A. Davidson & Co.
- **Robert Jacobson**, Desert Sky Holdings & Co-Founder, The A&D Forum
- **Ivan Rosenberg**, Managing Partner, InVista Associates, & Co-Founder and Executive Director, The A&D Forum

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The Aerospace & Defense Forum

is a global aerospace and defense leadership 9-chapter community of over 2400, providing opportunities for sharing of information, current events, and analysis, mutual support and encouragement, partnering, innovation, and performance breakthroughs.

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launched in 2011 to the Earth's Moon; and the Capture Lead for the INSIGHT mission to Mars, which launched and successfully landed on Mars in 2018. For his contributions to both the GRAIL and the INSIGHT missions, Leon received NASA Distinguished Individual Achievement Medals, as well as Group Achievement Awards for leading the two JPL capture teams to success.

In the last few years before retiring from JPL in early 2021, Leon led the development of the JPL Strategic Implementation Plan <https://jpl.nasa.gov/sip> and oversaw JPL Strategic Partnerships with a broad range of domestic and international partners.

Since retiring from JPL, Leon founded the Pasadena-based Mandala Space Ventures, LLC incubator focused on launching new businesses in space and commercializing space technologies for the benefit of humanity on Earth. Mandala recently launched Continuum Space Systems, LLC, which is a Software as a Service (SaaS) company offering a software platform for the rapid onboarding of companies entering the space business as well as for existing constellations in LEO. Leon is also a General Partner in the Explorer 1 Venture Fund, a Mandala Space Ventures affiliated venture fund.
