


8TH SMALLSAT & SPACE ACCESS SUMMIT

JUNE 25-26, 2025 | NATIONAL HARBOR, MD



OFFICIAL AGENDA

SUMMIT OVERVIEW



Program Design and Goal:

The 8th Annual SmallSat & Space Access Summit will convene key stakeholders across DoD, IC, Federal Government, and Industry for in-depth discussions on the latest advancements in commercial and government small satellite projects, launch capabilities, and space access solutions. The event will highlight the role of small satellite deployments to ensure a sustained advantage for the U.S. and allies in the space domain.

As adversaries seek to counter the U.S. space advantage, DoD and the Military services are increasingly focused on deploying large constellations of small satellites to enhance space superiority and strengthen national security. The event will cover key topics such as advancements in small satellite technology, development and deployment strategies, the future of launch vehicles and space access, resilient hybrid architectures, spaceport and launch infrastructure, supply chain and manufacturing challenges, and commercial-government partnerships in space access. The Summit will also feature panels on addressing the challenges facing the space industrial base amidst rapid demand for small satellite production, as well as exploring commercial innovations driving the smallsat market. Attendees at the 2025 SmallSat & Space Access Summit will have the unique opportunity to hear from government experts, industry leaders, and innovative researchers on current efforts to build an agile, reliable, and resilient space architecture that is responsive to a dynamic and evolving threat landscape.

DSI's team specializes in the extensive research and development of our Summits' content and focus areas, and we will assemble the most respected minds in the satellite & space communities, from space leaders to key policymakers across both military and civilian offices. Our non-partisan approach allows us to reach across all services and organizations to bring together a truly holistic group of decision makers and solution providers.

Operating Guidelines:

DSI's Summit directly supports DoD, IC, and Federal Government priorities by providing a conduit for officials to efficiently reach audiences outside of their respective offices that directly impact their department's mission success, at no charge to the government, and in an efficient expenditure of time.

DSI's Summit will provide a forum to address and improve internal and external initiatives, meet with and hear from partner organizations, disseminate vital capability requirements to industry, increase visibility within the larger community, and generally support their mission.

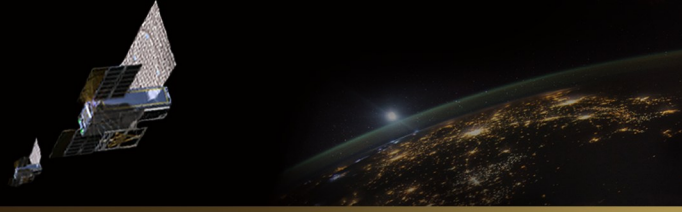
The Summit is open and complimentary to all DoD and Federal employees and is considered an educational training forum, a widely attended gathering.

(Industry and academia members are charged a fee for admission)

Summit is CLOSED TO PRESS / NO RECORDINGS

Agenda Current and Confirmed as of 6/9/25

SUMMIT OVERVIEW



General Target Audience

U.S. Military Services, The Intelligence Community, Government Agencies, Academia, Space Industry and Technology Solution Providers with job titles like Chief Technology Officer, VP Government Space, Senior Manager-Space Data Transport, Space SME, Satellite Engineer, Business Development Director, Satellite Communication Lead, Systems Engineer, Space Analyst, Small Spacecraft Technology Manager, Space & ISR Programs Lead, Research Space Scientist

Specific Topics to be Discussed

- Maintaining competitive endurance by leveraging SmallSats in the space domain
- Commercial launch providers supporting national security & defense initiatives in space
- Securing resilient & reliable access to space for SmallSat missions
- Shaping the future of smallsats to expand the DoD's technological advantage in the space domain
- Overcoming challenges of rapid demand for SmallSat production
- The role of venture capitalism in small satellite & space startups
- Fostering innovative & collaboration to propel defense & smallsat technologies
- Utilizing smallsats to enhance geospatial data & imagery capabilities
- Propelling the future of space access & SmallSat operations

VENUE:

151 ST. GEORGE

151 St George Blvd, Oxon Hill,
MD 20745



SUMMIT SCHEDULE



DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

8:00—8:45 AM

Registration and Light Breakfast Reception Open

8:45—9:00 AM

Moderator Opening Remarks

Douglas Loverro (Confirmed)

President

Loverro Consulting LLC

9:00—9:40 AM

Shaping the Future of SmallSats to Expand the DoD's Technological Advantage in the Space Domain

- Equipping the military and intelligence agencies with the most advanced and effective space technologies
- Advancing small satellite technology by improving launch capabilities, propulsion systems, sensors, and payloads
- Leveraging commercial innovation to help achieve the PD-S mission

Dr. Bryan N. Dorland, ST (Confirmed)

Principal Director for Space Technology

OUSD(R&E)/OASD(CT)

9:40—10:40 AM

Panel Discussion: Commercial Launch Providers and SmallSats are Advancing National Security & Defense Initiatives

As the commercial space industry has advanced, private companies are increasingly offering cost-effective, flexible, and innovative solutions for space missions. The panel will explore how commercial launches for smallsats are helping to rapidly deploy and advance technology, while also addressing the challenges that come with integrating private industry into government and defense operations. It will provide valuable insights into the evolving relationship between commercial companies and government entities in the space domain, highlighting the crucial role these partnerships play in securing the future of national defense.

Moderator:

Steve Nixon (Confirmed): Executive Director, Outernet Council

Participants:

- **Adam Oakes (Confirmed):** VP, Launch Vehicles, Firefly Aerospace
- **TJ Mathieson (Confirmed):** Chief Architect & Director, Mission Integration, Northrop Grumman
- **Jean Michael (Confirmed):** Principal, Strategic Development, ABL Space Systems
- **Mike Safyan (Confirmed):** VP of Launch & Strategic Initiatives, Planet



SUMMIT SCHEDULE



DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

10:40—11:20 AM **Networking Break & Exhibits**

11:20—12:00 PM **High-Performance Small Satellites for Demanding Missions**

- Developing advanced systems for small satellites
- Delivering mission operations support
- Advanced technologies and challenges for small satellites
- SDL's Small Satellite Initiatives

Lance Fife (Confirmed)

Director, Strategic & Military Space Division
Space Dynamics Laboratory, Utah State University

12:00—12:10 PM **Tech in Ten— Plasma Process**

Daniel Cavender (Confirmed): Director of Propulsion, Rubicon Space Systems

12:10—12:50 PM **Space RCO Efforts for Increased Space Access & Space Superiority**

- Space RCO pursuits for smaller and proliferated satellites to protect and defend Space Force missions
- Accelerating modernization of tactical satellite control and communications systems for increased Space Access
- Space RCO efforts to harness technological innovation and emerging capabilities from the commercial space sector

Dr. Kelly Hammett, SES (Confirmed)

Director & PEO
Space Rapid Capabilities Office

12:50—1:50 PM **Networking Lunch**



SUMMIT SCHEDULE



DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

1:50—2:50 PM

Panel Discussion: The Role of VCs in Small Satellite & Space Startups

Lower launch costs, new market opportunities, technological advancements, and growing government support have fueled a dramatic increase in venture investment in the space sector over the last decade. Venture capital firms are increasingly drawn to startups in the space tech sector, attracted by the potential for landmark innovation, disruption, and commercial success. This panel of VC leaders will discuss the rising interest of venture capitalist in space startups, the challenges of investing in the emerging space economy, and offer valuable perspectives on the intersection of finance and space exploration.

Moderator:

Brendan Wales (Invited): Co-Founder & General Partner, FUSE

Participants:

- **Mike Collett (Confirmed):** Managing Partner. Promus Ventures
- **Meagan Murphy Crawford (Confirmed):** Co-Founder & Managing Partner, SpaceFund
- **Dara Panahy (Confirmed):** Partner, Milbank LLP

2:50—3:30 PM

Bolstering ISR Capabilities with Innovative SmallSat Constellations

- Expanding NRO's proliferated architecture by increasing the number of small spacecraft launches
- Leveraging cutting-edge technology like AI/ML to enhance space operations and achieve mission objectives smarter, faster, and more efficiently
- Working with academia, government, and commercial partners to accelerate technological advancement

Dr. Aaron Weiner (Confirmed)

Director, Advanced Systems & Technology Directorate
NRO

3:30—4:10 PM

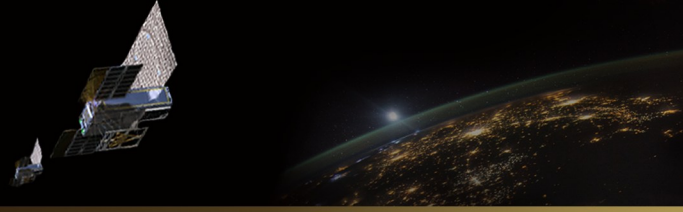
Protecting & Assuring Reliable & Resilient Military Satellite Communications

- Utilizing rapid, scalable, and cost-effective smallsat technology to provide communications and ISR capabilities
- Integrating smallsats into the broader landscape of space operations to enhance coverage and flexibility
- Leading Delta 8 to execute command and control of military satellite constellations, develop and train space warfighters, and deliver continuous capabilities

Col Jeffrey E. Weisler, USSF (Confirmed)

Commander
Space Delta 8

SUMMIT SCHEDULE



DAY 2: THURSDAY, JUNE 26

8:15—8:45 AM

Registration and Light Breakfast Reception Open

8:45—9:00 AM

Moderator Opening Remarks

Douglas Loverro (Confirmed)

President

Loverro Consulting LLC

9:00—9:40 AM

Fireside Chat: Overcoming Challenges of Rapid Demand for SmallSat Production

As the military shifts from relying on a few large complex satellite systems to deploying greater numbers of smaller, cheaper spacecraft, the demand for small satellite launches has surged. Driven by commercial entities, government agencies, and research organizations, this boom has placed increased pressure on supply chains. With more companies entering the smallsat market and launching more frequently, meeting the growing demand for both hardware and services has become more challenging. This panel will examine current and emerging challenges facing the space industrial base, the growing strain on suppliers and manufacturers, proactive strategies to alleviate recent space supply chain disruptions, and efforts to ramp up production to meet escalating government demand.

Moderator: Lori Gordon (Confirmed): Systems Director, Space Enterprise Evolution Directorate, Aerospace Corporation

Participant:

- **COL Alexander Rasmussen, USA (Confirmed):** Chief Capability Officer, SDA

9:40—10:20 AM

Leading AFRL R&D Efforts to Enable More Precise & Effective Movement of Spacecraft

- Improving the performance and effectiveness of small satellites from operational maneuver to complex on-orbit servicing
- Guiding research initiatives for the development of new technologies in support of space mobility and precision maneuver
- Collaborating with academia, government, and commercial partners to accelerate cutting-edge technological development for the space domain

Dr. Seth Lacy, ST (Confirmed)

Senior Scientist, Space Mobility & Precision Maneuver

Air Force Research Lab

10:20—11:00 AM

Networking Break & Exhibits



SUMMIT SCHEDULE



DAY 2: THURSDAY, JUNE 26

11:00—12:00 PM

Panel: Propelling the Future of Space Access & SmallSat Operations

In recent years, commercial innovation has transformed launch capabilities and established a new standard for space access. Military and intelligence agencies are increasingly focused on adopting commercial technologies to support the future deployment of small satellite constellations across all orbital levels. This panel will explore the latest advancements in satellite technology, the growing demand for efficient and cost-effective launch services, and the essential partnerships between commercial innovators and government entities to enable these capabilities.

Moderator:

Dr. Chad Ohlandt (Confirmed)

Senior Engineer
RAND Corp

Panelists:

- **Andy Bunker (Confirmed):** VP of Government Operations, Rocket Lab
- **Kristi Farley (Confirmed):** VP & Deputy General Manager, National Security Space, Lockheed Martin
- **Laura Robinson (Confirmed):** Deputy Director, Office of Space Launch, NRO
- **Lt Col Aaron Stevenson, USSF (Confirmed, Pending Legal Review):** Deputy Director, Commercial Space Office , Space Systems Command

12:00—1:00 PM

Networking Lunch

1:00—1:40 PM

Fostering Innovation & Collaboration to Propel Defense & SmallSat Technologies

- Assisting with the rapid transition of cutting-edge capabilities to bolster operations in the space domain
- Forging a pathway for small satellite developers and companies to launch and operate in space
- Supporting the modernization of Space Force launch facilities through enhanced digital infrastructure
- Forming collaborative partnerships with industry, academia, and government to advance innovation and research efforts for small satellite technology improvement

Charlene Jacka (Confirmed)

Chief Engineer
SpaceWERX

SUMMIT SCHEDULE



DAY 2: THURSDAY, JUNE 26

1:40—2:20 PM

Promoting a Competitive & Innovative Satellite-Based Global Telecommunications System

- Authorizing eligible satellite systems to facilitate the deployment of critical space-based communication services
- Allocating more radiofrequency spectrum to satellite and space services to enable industry growth
- Modernizing the commercial licensing system

Kerry Murray (Confirmed)

Deputy Chief & Chief of Staff, Space Bureau
FCC

2:20—3:20 PM

Closing Highlight

Panel Discussion: Utilizing SmallSats to Enhance Geospatial Data & Imagery Capabilities

A key development in modern GEOINT is the increasing use of small satellites, due to their size, cost-effectiveness, and ability to deliver high-resolution imagery and valuable data for military and defense applications. This panel will explore the transformative role of smallsats in advancing geospatial data collection and imagery analysis, while providing insights into the latest advancements in smallsat technology, deployment strategies, and their potential to address emerging challenges in the rapidly evolving space sector.

Moderator:

Gary L. Dunow (Invited)

Executive Vice President
U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation

Participants:

- **Lisa Henke (Confirmed):** VP of Technology & Innovation, USG, Maxar
- **Scot Curie (Confirmed):** VP, Geospatial Solutions, BlackSky
- **Jeffrey Bell (Confirmed):** Deputy Director, NGA Commercial Operations Group, NGA

3:20 PM

End of Summit

