Anousheh Ansari

"First Female Private Space Explorer & First Space Ambassador"

Anousheh Ansari is a Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Prodea Systems. As she launched her company, on September 18, 2006, she also blasted off for an eight-day expedition aboard the International Space Station and captured headlines around the world as the first female private space explorer. She also earned a place in history as and the first astronaut of Iranian descent, the first Muslim woman, and the fourth private explorer to visit space. This was the accomplishment of a lifelong dream for her. As a successful serial entrepreneur and active proponent of world-changing technologies and social entrepreneurship she along with her family provided the title sponsorship for the Ansari X Prize, a $10 million cash award for the first non-governmental organization to launch a reusable manned spacecraft into space twice within two weeks. This feat was accomplished in 2004 by legendary aerospace designer Burt Rutan in 2004. With the success of the X Prize competition, Ansaris had helped launch a new era in private space exploration. Prior to her Space ventures, Anousheh served as co-founder, chief executive officer, and chairwoman for Telecom Technologies, Inc.; subsequently earning three key U.S. patents and growing 100% sequentially yearly since inception, her company successfully merged with Sonus Networks, where she served as General Manager and Vice President of the Softswitch division. Anousheh is a member of the X Prize Foundation's Vision Circle, as well as its Board of Trustees. She is a life member in the Association of Space Explorers and on the advisory board of the Teacher's in Space project. She has received multiple honors, including the World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, Ellis Island Medal of Honor, Horatio Alger Award for Distinguished American, DFW International Community Alliance Hall of Fame award, the Working Woman's National Entrepreneurial Excellence Award, George Mason University's Entrepreneurial Excellence Award, George Washington University's Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, and the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Southwest Region. While under her leadership, Telecom Technologies earned recognition as one of Inc. magazine's 500 fastest-growing companies and Deloitte & Touche's Fast 500 technology companies. Anousheh serves on the boards of several not-for-profit organizations focused on STEM education and youth empowerment. She currently works to enable social entrepreneurs to bring about radical change globally, with organizations such as ASHOKA, which supports social entrepreneurship around the world, including the Middle East and Central Asia. She runs an annual competition called the "What If?" competition for middle school student to promote free thinking and STEM education. Anousheh earned a bachelor's degree in electronics and computer engineering from George Mason University, followed by a master's degree in electrical engineering from George Washington University. She received an honorary doctorate from International Space University and recently an honorary doctorate from George Mason University. She is currently working toward a master's degree in astronomy from Swinburne University.

Michael E. Fossum
Astronaut

Michael E. Fossum is a retired colonel in the U.S. Air Force. He received his commission from Texas A&M University in May 1980. After completing his graduate work at the Air Force Institute of Technology, he was detailed to NASA-Johnson Space Center, where he supported Space Shuttle flight operations. He resigned from active duty in 1992. In 1998, Fossum was selected as an Astronaut Candidate. The veteran of three space flights currently serves as the Assistant Director for the International Space Station. Fossum has logged more than 194 days in space, including more than 48 hours during seven spacewalks.

Dr. PAUL D. SPUDIS

Dr. PAUL D. SPUDIS is a Senior Staff Scientist at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston, Texas. His research focuses on impact and volcanic processes on the planets and requirements for sustainable human presence on the Moon. He was Deputy Leader of the Science Team for the *Clementine* mission to the Moon in 1994, the Principal Investigator of the Mini-SAR radar experiment on India's Chandrayaan-1 mission in 2008-2009, and a team member of the Mini-RF radar on NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter mission (2009 present). He was a member of two White House commissions on U. S. Space Policy. He is the author or co-author of over 100 scientific papers and six books, including *The Once and Future Moon* and *The Clementine Atlas of the Moon*.

Scott J Kelly
Astronaut

Scott J. Kelly (Captain, USN, Ret.) is a graduate of the State University of New York Maritime College and the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. In 1996, Kelly was selected by NASA as an Astronaut Candidate. The veteran of three spaceflights has logged more than 180 days in space, including one long duration spaceflight. Most recently, he and cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko were selected to serve a one-year mission aboard the International Space Station. The goal of the 2015 mission is to understand how the human body reacts and adapts to the harsh environment of space.

Chairman and CEO, Ad Astra Rocket Company
Dr. Franklin R. Chang Díaz

Dr. Franklin R. Chang Díaz www.franklinchangdiaz.com is founder and current Chairman and CEO of Ad Astra Rocket Company, www.adastrarocket.com, a US firm developing advanced plasma rocket technology with operations in Houston, Texas and Guanacaste, Costa Rica. In 2005 Dr. Chang Díaz completed a 25 year career as a NASA astronaut where he became a veteran of 7 space missions. He has logged over 1,600 hours in space, including 19 hours in three space walks. In 1994, in conjunction with astronaut training at NASA, he founded and directed the Advanced Space Propulsion Laboratory (ASPL) at the Johnson Space Center where he managed a multi-center research team developing advanced plasma rocket propulsion concepts. Dr. Chang Díaz is the inventor of the VASIMR® engine, a high power plasma rocket currently under development by Ad Astra for in-space applications. He has over 30 years of experience in experimental plasma physics, engineering and high power electric propulsion and 25 years of experience in space operation and the management and implementation of research and development programs at NASA. Dr. Chang Díaz holds a PhD degree in Applied Plasma Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Connecticut. Prior to his work at NASA, Dr. Chang Díaz was involved in magnetic and inertial confinement fusion research at MIT and the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory. He is an Adjunct Professor of Physics at Rice University and the University of Houston. He is married to the former Peggy Marguerite Stafford of Alexandria, Louisiana and has four daughters: Jean Elizabeth (38) Sonia Rosa (33), Lidia Aurora (23) and Miranda Karina (16). He enjoys music, flying and scuba-diving. His mother, brothers and sisters still reside in Costa Rica.

Dr. John (Jack) Bacon
Futurist

Jack Bacon has often been called "A New Carl Sagan." He is an internationally-known motivational speaker, a distinguished lecturer (emeritus) of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), and one of the most requested speakers in the world for topics concerning technology and the factors that shape human society. A noted futurist and a technological historian, he has written three popular books entitled "My Grandfathers' Clock," "My Stepdaughter's Watch," and “The Parallel Bang,” with many thousands of copies sold of each. A fourth: *“Killer Apps for the Green Global Village”* is in the works. His lectures have captivated tens of thousands of all ages in thirty-two countries on six continents, and he has appeared on numerous radio and television broadcasts. In his daily work, he is on the management team overseeing the construction and operation of the most complicated technical project in history: the International Space Station. A graduate of Caltech (B.S. '76) and the University of Rochester (Ph.D. '84) his extensive career includes roles in the development of many cutting edge technologies, including

controlled thermonuclear fusion, the development of the electronic office, factory automation, and the globalization of business. He pioneered the deployment of several artificial intelligence systems, learning his craft at the famed Xerox Palo Alto Research Center. He was the United States' lead systems integrator of the Zarya-the jointly-built spacecraft that forms the central bridge and adapter between all US and Russian technologies on the Space Station. This landmark in technological history was built in Moscow by American and Russian engineers and launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in November 1998. Jack is a fellow of the Explorer's Club, a member of the AIAA, the National Speakers Association, the International Federation of Professional Speakers, Engineers without Borders, and Rotary International. He was a founding member of the board of directors of the Science National Honor Society (www.ScienceNHS.org). Among his numerous awards, he is a recipient of NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal, the Director's Special Commendation, and the coveted Silver Snoopy award-the only award to fly in space. He routinely advises numerous academic programs and institutions, and he is a champion of education throughout the world. When he's not on the road, Jack cherishes his time together with Kathleen: his lifelong love since high school, found five states away after 27 years apart. (You've gotta love the Internet!)

EXCALIBUR • ALMAZ

Art Dula

Art has over 30 years experience as an attorney specializing in aerospace, export control and intellectual property law. He was a consultant to NASA on the Space Shuttle payload contract and an advisor to the U.S. Congress on legal issues concerning space stations. He is a past Chairman of the American Bar Association's Section on Science & Technology and is a corresponding member of the IAA and an associate fellow of the AIAA. Mr. Dula teaches space law at the University of Houston. He holds a J.D. degree from Tulane University. Prior to founding Excalibur Almaz in 2005, Mr. Dula served as Director and General Counsel to companies including Eagle Aerospace, Inc.; Space Services, Inc., which launched the first private U.S. space vehicle; and Spacehab, Inc., which built and flew Spacehab modules in the U.S. Space Shuttle. He also founded Space Commerce Corporation, the first U.S.-Russian aerospace joint venture. Mr. Dula is a former Director and current member of the Board of Governors of the National Space Society and twice received society's Space Pioneer Award. In addition, he is literary executor for the writer Robert A. Heinlein and serves as Trustee of the Robert A. and Virginia Heinlein Prize Trust, which offers annual awards to individuals for significant commercial accomplishments in aerospace, and to aerospace students in international contests.

Ms. Beth Fischer
Honeywell

Ms. Beth A. Fischer is the Director, Engineering Center of Excellence for Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc (HTSI). She has an extensive 20+ year aerospace experience base developed through a career with NASA and Honeywell including positions in human spaceflight program management, associate and deputy director positions for NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) Engineering and Center Operations, aerospace engineering product development and delivery, project management, contract management, business development, business management, payload processing and launch operations, and infrastructure management. She excels in leading and integrating diverse teams, managing day to day operations and executing challenging new initiatives such as the recently formed Engineering Center of Excellence for HTSI. She has received numerous awards throughout her career including highlights of a NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal for her work in JSC Engineering, a NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal for her work on the International Space Station and Certificates of Commendation from the Johnson Space Center Director and Kennedy Space Center Director. Ms. Fischer has a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering from Kettering University and a Masters Degree in Engineering Management from the University of Central Florida. She resides in Houston, TX with her two children

Richard Phillips
Founder and President Phillips & Company

For more than 22 years, Rich has helped companies and organizations build leadership momentum for products, services and ideas. Rich is the Founder and President of Phillips & Company, a global communications firm focused on creating, defending and sustaining leadership positions through public relations and business development. Phillips & Company is currently the number one PR agency in the world serving the aerospace and emerging commercial space market, and the company is recognized for its issues advocacy and corporate public relations work in homeland security, mobile computing, education, healthcare and energy. Rich has helped create several coalitions to support issues and goals of member companies including the Family Services Technology Council, Next Step in Space Coalition, Healthcare Mobile Innovation Alliance and the Healthcare Delivery Innovation Alliance. Rich is also managing partner of Telepoint Global Hosting Services, a trading platform for wholesale voice with a focus on telecom carriers in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East and Blackpool Application Hosting, a Dublin-based telecom firm focused on managing voice traffic between Europe and the world. Rich also serves on the Board of Directors of Explore Mars, a non-profit committed to advancing the U.S. leadership role in space exploration. Rich earned a B.A. in Economics with Distinction from Boston University and a Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Panel Moderator ~ IT Strategic Consultant AIAA Technical Operations Chair
Aerospace – Science Consulting Consortia & Pro Life Coaching
Beatriz Kelly-Serrato (BeBe)

BeBe Kelly-Serrato has a degree in Geological Sciences and has worked as an IT Security Specialist, a Scientist, and an Aerospace Engineer; she currently pursues additional activities in music, executive coaching, professional speaking, vocal coaching, and business development. She's held positions in corporate and government sectors, supporting security network infrastructures for the past 25 years. She has developed relationships with scientists, engineers, and individuals from diverse backgrounds, including the arts. She's utilized these connections in creative and diplomatic ways to help create useful business connections. She's utilized her experience and background from her knowledge of science, engineering, and aerospace, but her creativity provided much more than her employers or clients anticipated. In her career, she's worked within the NASA contractor community in the Engineering Directorate as a system engineering manager and outside the NASA environment for fortune 500 companies within a project lead. BeBe is very comfortable transitioning between the government sector, Oil-Gas and Corporate Business environments; she is comfortable supporting individuals or teams in a structured setting. She's currently the CEO of Aerospace – Science Consulting Consortia, LLC, Pro Life Coaching, and Glass of Class Jazz Vocals. She is searching for full-time work and volunteers for the AIAA and Teachers in Space for the Space Foundation. Her present goal is to locate a career and transition to commercial aerospace for IT security systems or within another corporate area before settling into professional speaking, branding, product development, and coaching full time either on her own or as an internal integrator for a company who could utilize her skill set. Her core values include Independence, Risk-taking, and Integrity, and are key in driving her to meet her goals. She is a speaker and facilitator for think tanks and keynote panels for the aerospace community and IT Security Summits. She was invited to facilitate a think tank for IT cloud security recently during the Texas Technology Summit. She has raised three children and is a care giver to her Mom.

Shirley Brandt
AIAA Houston Section Chair
Toast Master Sergeant of Arms

Shirley Brandt has provided support in dynamics on commercial aircraft, and loads and dynamics on military aircraft for many years. She transitioned into the Space program, and worked in Structural Dynamics on the Space Shuttle. For 12 years, she worked on the interface of the Canadian Robotic Arm with the International Space Station. She's been a member of AIAA for about 35 years, where she's held several offices, including Houston Section Chairman. Currently, she is the Secretary of the National Systems Engineering Technical Committee and is Honors & Awards Deputy Director for AIAA Region IV. She holds several offices in Toastmasters International.