

Team

David H Mitchell – Founder and Team Leader

NASA award-winning entrepreneur with a lifetime of experience in private space development and advanced communications. David is a past member of the Citizens' Advisory Council on National Space Policy, the XPRIZE Foundation, and the Science and Entertainment Exchange of the National Academy of Sciences. He has published on such topics as space, the Internet, virtual reality, and telepresence. He was one of the original inventors of the laptop computer.

Laura Anne Edwards – Global Strategic Partnerships and Telepresence Ambassador

NASA Datanaut, Teaching Fellow of the Oxford Space Initiative (OxSI), Climate/Space Innovation Catalyst. Laura recently coordinated the Oxford-sponsored Covington Smart Space DeepTech Lift Off bringing global AI, Robotics, and Space scientists together.

Rob Lock – Space Systems

Aerospace expert with a 36-year career spanning Martin Marietta, ISS, SDI, Magellan, NASA JPL, and Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. Rob led teams in developing over 30 NASA mission concepts. He is now retired after three years of working on advanced mission concepts at Blue Origin.

George Friedman – Geopolitical Strategy

Founder and chairman of Geopolitical Futures and an internationally recognized geopolitical forecaster on global affairs with a background in military modeling and intelligence. His eight international best-selling books include *The Storm Before the Calm*, *The Next 100 Years*, and *The Future of War*. He holds a Ph.D. in government from Cornell University.

Karl Schroeder – Advanced Projects and Foresight Analysis

Science fiction writer, realist, and futurist. A visionary author whose career includes foresight exercises with the Canadian government, Karl has engaged in planning for audiences across the United States, London, Warsaw, Paris, Athens, and NATO. Karl was also invited to the White House to consult with the Office of Science and Technology.

Robert Aston – Telepresence Applications

Earth Scientist with 25 years of experience designing and deploying underwater HD video systems globally. Robert's latest book explores Artificial Specialized Intelligence and its influence on the future of ocean exploration, underwater imaging, and marine research innovation.

Oliver Irving – Film Director and Writer

Active, talented and productive film director and writer. The most recent films Oliver has written and directed include "Ghost Team" (2016) and "Reading Rainbow Live" (2022).

Terry Ballman – University Outreach

Over 30 years of leadership experience in higher education as a dean, department chair, professor, and scholar. An effective bilingual and multicultural communicator, Terry has extensive experience working with students, faculty and administrators in order to engage, learn from, and empower. She holds a Ph.D. in Spanish Linguistics from the University of Texas.

Luke Aronson – Student Liaison and Social Media

Scripps Institution of Oceanography graduate student with a passion for the ocean, and the role telepresence will play. Luke enjoys public outreach using photography, videography, and social media – and soon Telepresence!

Advisors

David A Barnhart – Currently CEO and Co-Founder of Arkisys Inc, leading a team to break through to true sustainable commercial operations in Space with a unique scalable services-based platform. David holds a Research Professor Appointment in the Department of Astronautical Engineering at USC and is the Director/Co-Founder of the USC Space Engineering Research Center. He served as a senior DARPA space Project Manager overseeing \$500M programs. He has started up two previous space companies: Millennium Space Systems in Los Angeles CA (now a Boeing Co subsidiary); and a German startup in Bremen, Vanguard Space, one of the first companies working commercial spacecraft servicing.

David B Casselman – Long-term Philanthropist; Founder and CEO of The Ecoflix Foundation and The Ecoflix Channel. David is a retired trial lawyer, and Past President of the Los Angeles and California Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Scott Wingate – USC MBA and seasoned CFO. Scott has a lifetime of senior management experience guiding companies, and handling both turnarounds and start-ups. He has worked in private equity environments as a finance executive for fast-growing platform companies ranging in size from \$50M to \$800M in revenues and currently provides fractional CFO services.

Robert Harkins – Visualization Laboratory Director (VizCenter) and Lecturer/Academic Advisor for the Graduate Program in Homeland Security at San Diego State University. Bob is a retired Supervisory Special Agent of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Peter Kunkel – Founder/CEO of a space stealth startup. Peter is a retired Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army, directing all Army budgeting and financial management activities and operations. He is a serial entrepreneur who founded his own consulting and advisory business focusing on advanced space sector technologies, including spacecraft reusability, and in-space propulsion.

Scott Tait – Executive Director of the National Security Innovation Catalyst at UC San Diego. Catalyst is a broad, collaborative effort that compliments and supports national security innovation initiatives. Scott is also the COO and Director of Strategic Partnerships at Startup Science.

Erik Scott Viirre – Professor in the UCSD Department of Neurosciences, Dr. Viirre is also the Director of the UCSD Arthur C Clarke Center for Human Imagination and sponsor of undergraduate engineering projects, among other responsibilities. He is the co-principal investigator on International Space Station - National Laboratory (ISS-NL) and NASA-funded BOARDS missions. He earned his Ph.D. in Neurophysiology at the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada.

Jim Keravala - Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of OffWorld, Inc. He undertakes leadership roles in innovation in multidisciplinary areas including aerospace and space engineering, robotics and machine intelligence. He is a member of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration and is on the Board of the Global Mining Standards Group Governance Committee. Jim has been a Board Member of the National Space Society, The International Moonbase Alliance and the Moon Village Association. Jim is an Academician of the International Academy of Astronautics, Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society, Member of the International Institute of Space Law, and is Associate Editor for the New Space Journal.