



COSPAR 2021

43rd COSPAR
Scientific Assembly

28 January – 4 February 2021

Connecting space research
for global impact

www.cospar2021.org



EVENT MANAGEMENT BY



MEDIA RELEASE

Lively ethics debate on space exploration and mining to be discussed at 43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly – Monday, February 1, 2021



Imagine you work with a company that has developed a lunar rover and you want to compete for a contract with NASA to extract and sell water ice from the moon. You need a launch partner, and you need to know how your activities on the moon will be regulated. But what if there is a risk of colliding with space debris during the launch? What if debates at the UN raise concerns about protecting the lunar environment, or about who can share in the benefits of these commercial activities under the Outer Space Treaty?

What is the lawful thing to do, and what is the right thing to do?

Dr Cassandra Steer, Mission Specialist with the ANU Institute of Space (InSpace) and Senior Lecturer at the ANU College of Law, specialising in space law, space security and international law will moderate this Space Law and Ethics session at the 43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly, with a global audience expected of more than 2,000.

Participants include:

- Duncan Blake – former Legal Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force, Deputy Director of Operations and International Law for the Australian Department of Defence and legal advisor to the Defence Space Coordinating Office.
- Dr Nikki Coleman - Senior Chaplain Ethicist with the Royal Australian Air Force, and former ethics consultant for the Commonwealth Department of Health, the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Department of Defence.



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- Steven Freeland - Emeritus Professor of International Law at Western Sydney University specialising in Commercial Space Law, and previously the Dean of the School of Law. He is a Member of the Advisory Group of the Australian Space Agency.
- Donna Lawler - Co-Founder and Principal at Azimuth Advisory and member of the International Institute of Space Lawyers. She has been an advisor to a range of commercial space organisations, including operators of geo-stationary and low earth orbit satellite constellations, spaceport operators and launch services providers.

This Space Law and Ethics session is set to be one of the most well attended of the conference, with lively debate expected and the ability for delegates to ask questions of the participants.

Journalists can attend by registering prior at

<https://icmsaust.eventsair.com/cospar-2021/media-registration>

About COSPAR

Headquartered in France and established in 1958, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) aims to further the research, exploration, and the peaceful use of outer space through international cooperation.

About the 43rd COSPAR Scientific Assembly

The COSPAR Scientific Assembly is held on a rotational basis between countries every two years.

This year's theme – Connecting Space Research for Global Impact – is an opportunity for Australia to broaden its footprint in space research at a time when Australia's space sector, assisted by the Australian Space Agency, is rapidly gathering momentum. COSPAR-2021 will provide Australian companies, scientists and researchers with an opportunity to showcase their expertise to a global audience.

Visit www.cospar2021.org for further details.

Further Information–

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