



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

RAL Space

# 19<sup>th</sup> Appleton Space Conference

Thursday 7 December 2023



# Morning Sessions

**08:30** Registration  
R22 Coffee Lounge

## **Session 1: Resilient society**

**Chair: Dr Sarah Beardsley, Director STFC RAL Space**

**09:05 – 09:25** Welcome  
Dr Sarah Beardsley, Director STFC RAL Space

**09:25 – 09:45** The UK's international stance on space  
Rebecca Evernden, Director for Space, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

**09:45 – 10:05** Updates from the UK Space Agency  
Chris White-Horne, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, UK Space Agency

**10:05 – 10:25** A 37-year journey to the Sun  
Prof Richard Harrison, Chief Scientist, STFC RAL Space

**10:25 – 10:45** Quantum computing for space: thinking for the future  
Dr Sonali Mohapatra, Quantum Innovation Sector Lead, National Quantum Computing Centre

**10:45 – 11:15** Break, networking, exhibition

## **Session 2: Earth observation**

**Chair: Dr Jane Hurley, Head of Earth Observation and Atmospheric Science, STFC RAL Space**

**11:15 – 11:35** Oceans of change: what next for Earth observation  
Prof Christine Gommenginger, Satellite Oceanography Team Leader, National Oceanography Centre

**11:35 – 11:55** The Earth and Space Sustainability Initiative  
Dr Stuart Clark, Director of Communications, Earth Space Sustainability Initiative

**11:55 – 12:15** "The sky is not the limit!" - Earth Observation at the Met Office  
Dr Simon Keogh, Head of Space Applications and Nowcasting R&D, Met Office

**12:15 – 13:15** Lunch, networking, exhibition

# Afternoon Sessions

## Session 3: Keynote Lecture

Chair: Dr Sarah Beardsley, Director STFC RAL Space

**13:15 – 14:05** From greenhouse to icehouse: 100 million years of climate change in Antarctica  
Prof Dame Jane Francis, Director British Antarctic Survey

**14:05 – 14:15** Comfort break

## Session 4: People, communication and skills

Chair: Prof Anu Ojha OBE, Director Championing Space, UK Space Agency and STFC Council

**14:15 – 15:00** Panel session: Going beyond inspiration alone – skills, sustainability and meeting the challenges with the urgency we need  
Prof Anu Ojha OBE, Director Championing Space, UK Space Agency  
Dr Alex Brown, ESERO-UK Manager  
Helen Johnson, Head of STFC Skills Centre  
CJ Bishop, Community Engagement Manager, National Space Centre  
Group Captain John Hetherington, Deputy Head Space Enablement, UK Space Command  
Mansi Joshi, Aerothermal Engineer, Rolls-Royce

**15:00 – 15:15** Highlight: National Satellite Test Facility  
Prof Mark Thomson, Executive Chair STFC

**15:15 – 15:45** Break, networking, exhibition

## Session 5: Space science and exploration

Chair: Paul Eccleston, Chief Engineer STFC RAL Space

**15:45 – 16:05** To Bennu and Back: The OSIRIS-REx mission and the power of sample return  
Prof Neil Bowles, Professor of Planetary Science, University of Oxford

**16:05 – 16:25** Euclid's dark energy journey  
Prof Adam Amara, Head of Mathematics and Physics, University of Surrey

**16:25 – 16:55** The first observational link between black holes and dark energy  
Dr Kevin Croker, Affiliate Graduate Faculty, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

**16:55 – 17:05** Comfort break

## Session 6: Community

Chair: Charlie Haire, Head of Business Development, STFC RAL Space

**17:05 – 17:50** Panel session: How do we navigate future markets for space?  
Charlie Haire, Head of Business Development, STFC RAL Space  
John Abbott, CEO, Satellite Applications Catapult  
Kaoutar Abousmir, Head of International Strategy, DSIT  
John E Ward, Senior Director of Research and Development, Spire Global

**17:50 – 18:00** Closing remarks

**18:00 – 20:00** Please join us for an evening reception with drinks and bowl food



## RAL Space

Contact us:

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