

**Universities Space Research Association**

**&**

**The Space Policy Institute,  
The George Washington University**

Present a Symposium on

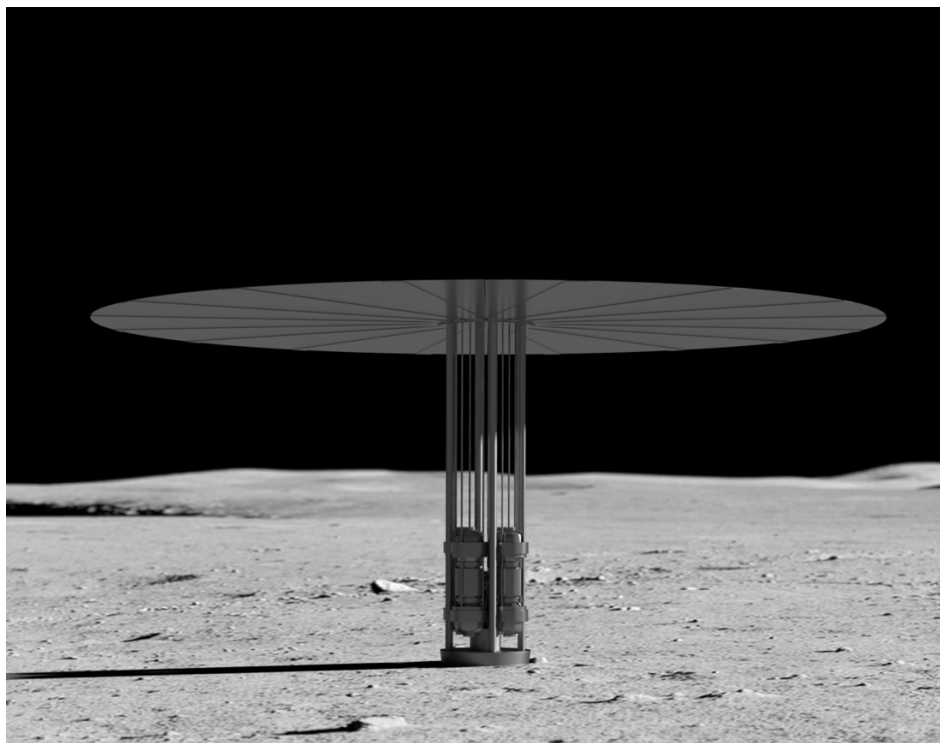
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# **SPACE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY**

## **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR EVOLVING SPACE MISSIONS**

**How Can Space Nuclear Technology Contribute to  
Science, Exploration, and the Future Security Environment?**

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*Image- courtesy of NASA*

**Thursday, March 21, 2024 | 1 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

Holiday Inn  
Washington DC National Mall  
550 C Street SW, Washington DC  
<https://newsroom.usra.edu/2024-usra-symposium/>



**1:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

- **JEFFREY A. ISAACSON**, President and CEO, USRA
- **SCOTT PACE**, Director, Space Policy Institute, George Washington University

**1:10 p.m. Frederick A. Tarantino Memorial Address**

- **FRANKLIN CHANG-DÍAZ**, Founder, Ad Astra Rocket Company

**1:45 p.m. Toward A Roadmap for Space Nuclear Technology Development: Agency Views**

*Emerging requirements for operations in cislunar space and beyond require new capabilities that may be provided by space nuclear technologies. Panelists will discuss the technical challenges and opportunities in the coming decade and a map to the road ahead.*

- **PRASUN DESAI**, Deputy Associate Administrator of the Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD), NASA Headquarters
- **THOMAS LOCKHART**, Director, J-8, U.S. Space Command, Department of Defense

**2:30 p.m. Coffee Break**

**2:45 p.m. Technology Gaps**

*Panelists will provide insight on the key technology enablers to fulfill anticipated mission requirements for both space nuclear propulsion and planetary surface power.*

- **ANTHONY CALOMINO**, Space Nuclear Technology Portfolio Manager, NASA
- **ROGER MYERS**, National Academy of Engineering
- **CHRISTINA BACK**, Vice President, Nuclear Technologies and Materials, General Atomics Electromagnetic Systems
- **JUSTIN KASPER**, Chief of Technology, BWXT Advanced Technologies, LLC
- **HARLAN BOWERS**, President, X Energy, LLC
- **TABITHA DODSON**, Program Manager, DRACO, DARPA, Department of Defense

**4:00 p.m. Infrastructure, Regulation, and Workforce Development Needs**

*Panelists will provide insight on the key infrastructure needs, along with regulatory issues and nuclear workforce development challenges, such as educating the next generation of experts.*

- **DOUG BURNS**, Space Nuclear Propulsion Project, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center
- **JEFF WAKSMAN**, Program Manager, Project Pele, Department of Defense
- **ALEX GILBERT**, Director, Space & Planetary Regulation, Zeno Power
- **TABITHA DODSON**, Program Manager, DRACO, DARPA, Department of Defense
- **JEFFREY KING**, Professor, Nuclear Science and Engineering Program, Colorado School of Mines

**5:15 p.m. Summary**

- **ROBERT O'BRIEN**, Director, Center for Space Nuclear Research, USRA

**5:30 p.m. Invitation to the Reception**

- **JOAN RAMAGE**, Vice-Chair, USRA Council of Institutions

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**Attendance is by invitation only.**



Please scan the QR code above for more information including webcast and speaker biographies.

<https://newsroom.usra.edu/2024-usra-symposium/>