



VAMUN

XXXIX

WGSS: European Space Agency

Chair: Daniela Moreno  
Crisis Director: Jake Rossi

## **European Space Agency - Dossier**

### **Josef Aschbacher**, *Director of Earth Observation & Head of ESRIN*

Josef Aschbacher is from Austria. He joined ESA as a young graduate from ESA Center for Earth Observation (ESRIN) and has been heavily involved in advancing Copernicus activities within ESA. He was the head of the Copernicus Space Office where he lead all activities for Copernicus in collaboration with the European Commission. He has been promoted to Head of Programme Planning and Coordination at ESRIN where he is responsible for organizing ESA Earth Observation programmes as well as making and implementing programmatic and strategic decisions across the directorate. ‘

### **Rebecca Barnes**, *Contractor*

Rebecca Barnes is from the United Kingdom and is a contractor with the ESA and HE Space Operations. Her job is recruitment and education for the space programs. She travels to all member countries in the ESA to recruit and educate high school and university students on the various space programs and jobs that come with them.

### **Michel G. Breitfellner**, *CESAR Coordinator & Mars Express Science Operations*

Michel Breitfellner is from Vienna, Austria. He has been affiliated with the ESA since 1994 and has been working on the Cooperation through Education in Science and Astronomy Research (CESAR) since 2010. The role of CESAR is to educate European students on various facets in the field of astronomy. In this role, Michel helps facilitate that education. He specializes in the study of Mars and his role in the Mars Express Science Operations faction is to advise the ESA on matters dealing with research of Mars.

### **Alvaro Giménez Cañete**, *Director of Science and Robotic Exploration*

Alvaro Giménez Cañete is from Madrid and works as the Director of Science for the ESA. He has been involved in the ESA since 2001, first starting his work in the Netherlands, and he has been working as Director of Science since 2011. With this position, he is responsible for the science program and advising and supporting other programs within the agency. His research focuses on understanding the internal structure of stars.

### **Fiorella Coliolo**, *Scientific Communication Officer*

From Italy, Fiorella Coliolo acts as a consultant to the ESA and other organizations (specifically ECSITE) to help organize projects. She checks for coherence within the projects and works heavily with internal teams in the ESA to ensure cooperation and a

positive work environment. She began her work with the ESA in 2003 and founded the company Exoworld in 2004.

**Samantha Cristoforetti**, *Astronaut*

From Milan, Samantha Cristoforetti has been an astronaut at the ESA since 2009. In this role, she has become exceptional in the fields of EVA and robotics. She is a licensed flight engineer and is highly educated in the fields of aerospace and mechanical engineering. She is a graduate of the Italian Air Force Academy. Her work also includes working as a project evaluator for the ESA and working with Chinese counterparts to facilitate cooperation between Europe and China with regards to astronaut operations.

**Rolf Densing**, *Director of Operations, European Space Operations Center*

Rolf Densing has worked in a series of projects at the German Aerospace Center and has had managerial roles. He was Head of the Executive Office at the German Space Agency and headed to ESA after. In the past he has been the Director of Space Programmes at the German DLR Space Administration where he was responsible for Germany's involvement in the ESA's research, technology, and infrastructure programmes. He has made major contributions to the national space strategy in policies, programmatic, and space operation centers in Germany.

**Reinhold Ewald**, *Physicist and Astronaut*

Reinhold Ewald is from Germany and is a member of the German Physics Society, the Association of Space Explorers, and the International Academy of Astronauts. He has been affiliated with the ESA since 1999, and in 2005 he was appointed Head of the International Space Station Mission Integration and Operations Division in the ESA Directorate of Operations and Infrastructure. More recently he has served as an Advisor to the Head of Director General's Cabinet at the ESA's headquarters in Paris.

**Bernard Foing**, *Executive Director, International Lunar Exploration Working Group*

Bernard Foing is a scientist from France. He has worked as an astronomer at the European Southern Observatory (ESO) in Chile and as a professor of Astrophysics. He has been working at the ESA since 1993. In his current role as Executive Director of ILEWG, he works to support international cooperation to form a strategy for exploring and utilizing the Moon.

**Jean-Yves Le Gall**, *President of the French National Center for Space Studies*

Jean-Yves Le Gall is from France and acts as the main representative for France within the ESA. He has studied extensively in the field of engineering and has been working with the French National Center for Space Studies (CNES) and the ESA since 1985. He

has been president of the CNES since 2013. He is also the CEO of Starsem, a Euro-Russian company that aims to commercialize Soyuz launcher.

**Alexander Gerst, *Astronaut***

From Germany, Alexander Gerst is an astronaut with the ESA and has been since 2009. He is an expert in Earth Sciences and geophysics. Along with his affiliation with the ESA, Alexander is also a member of the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI), the German Geophysical Society (DGG), the European Geosciences Union (EGU), the European Volcanological Society (SVE), and the American Geophysical Union (AGU). He has been to the international space station on two occasions.

**Günther Hasinger, *Director of Science & Head of ESAC***

Günther Hasinger is from Germany and has received numerous awards for his research and outstanding contributions to space science. He is a member of the Academia Europea, the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, and the German National Academy of Sciences. He has played a key role in the operation of X-ray satellites and the development of future observatories. He has played a very important role in improving the financial constraints of basic space research in Germany and Europe.

**Eric Morel, *Director of Industry, Procurement, and Legal Services***

Eric has been director of the procurement department since 2004 as well as the directorate of Resources Management and Industrial Matters. His role involves industry relations, coordinating procurement agents, buyers, or purchasing agents, and providing legal services to manage ESA's supply and relationships with companies providing products and services. He is also the head of ESA's headquarters in Paris, France.

**Daniel Neuenschwander, *Director of Space Transportation***

Daniel Neuenschwander is from Berne, Switzerland and has spent most of his professional career in the aerospace sector. He has served in many different positions, including: Representative of the ESA Censor in Arianespace, Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee for Space Affairs, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Swiss Space Center, a Board Member of the International Space Science Institute, and chair of the ESA Council Working Group for the European participation in the International Space Station.

**Franco Ongaro, *Director of Technology, Engineering, and Quality***

Franco Ongaro is in charge of organizing and maintaining the ongoing innovation and technical excellence needed to achieve future ESA goals. He is responsible for longer-term technology development and assuring research infrastructure covers every aspect of the space environment. He is also the head of the European Space Research and Technology Center (ESTEC) in Noordwijk, Netherlands.

**David Parker**, *Director of Human and Robotic Exploration*

David Parker leads the European Exploration Envelope Programme which programs regular astronaut missions to the International Space Station. Past missions have been the first dedicated life search on Mars and the first investigation of water ice on the Moon. He has connections in the United Kingdom Space Agency, as he was selected to be an Assistant Director to the Department of Trade and Industry.

**Jean Max Puech**, *Director of Internal Services*

Jean Max Puech has had various roles in the internal services sector. He started in the design department of Dassault Aviation where he worked on the team that developed the Computer Aided Design (CAD) software. He has also served as Head of Business Department and headed its marketing, strategy and business development departments. He has also served as Vice President of Finance and Senior Vice President of Finance at Arianespace. He joined ESA being a Directorate of Finance, Controlling and Information Technology, in charge of the financial management of the Agency.

**Anna Rathsman**, *Director-General of the Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA)*

Anna Rathsman is from Sweden and has been Director-General of the Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA) since 2018. In this position, she aims to further the research of space and space travel in Sweden. She also acts as Sweden's highest ranking representative in the ESA. Formerly she was the Chief Technology Officer at the Swedish Space Corporation and has extensive knowledge in technology, business, public relations, and space.

**Giorgio Saccoccia**, *President of the Italian Space Agency*

President of the Italian Space Agency (ASI), Giorgio Saccoccia is from Belluno, Italy and has extensively studied in the fields of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. Previously, he was Head of the Propulsion and Aerothermodynamics Division in the ESA (from 2003-2019) and he now serves as Italy's main representative within the ESA.

**Graham Turnock**, *CEO of the United Kingdom Space Agency*

From the United Kingdom, Graham Turnock acts as the main representative for the UK within the ESA. While not working directly for the ESA, he represents Britain's interests

in the group and aims to grow the knowledge and exploration of space in Britain and every other country within the ESA. He has held this position since March 2017 and is highly educated in Particle Physics and Public Policy.

**Philippe Willekens**, *Head of the ESA Communication Department*

Philippe Willekens is originally from France. He is in charge of communication, marketing, and commercial space at ESA's offices in Paris. All communication-related projects and publications must be approved from him. He has 30 years of experience at ESA and has recently served in Director-General's Cabinet as Head of Support Services at the ESA Council Secretariat. He is a member of the International Academy of Astronautics. Recently, he has diverted most of his focus on space education programs.

**Jan Woerner**, *Director-General of the European Space Agency*

Jan Woerner is the head of the ESA. Within the agency, each individual research sector has its own Directorate who reports back to the Director-General. He was Vice President of the Helmholtz Association, which contributes to solving major challenges facing society, science, and industry. He is also an active member of various national and international supervisory bodies, councils and committees, including the Energy Expert Group of the German Government.

**Magali Vaissiere**, *Director of Telecommunications and Integrated Applications*

Magali Vaissiere was born in France and has 24 years of experience in the industry dealing with ground based radars and satellites. She first joined ESA as the Head of the Telecommunications Department within the ESA Directorate for Telecommunications and Navigation. This department reflects the major increase in telecommunication activities in today's world and tomorrow's new opportunities opened by public-private partnerships between ESA, industry, and operators. This department also reflects the growth potential for integrated applications in fields like security, health, energy and development.

**Paul Verhoef**, *Director of Navigation*

Paul Verhoef has worked all over the world on special projects such as the installation of the first satellite station in Papua New Guinea, setting up the Olympus Payload Utilization Secretariat in Noordwijk, and being a programme manager for the EU Galileo and European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) satellite navigation programmes. He was the ESA Director for the Galileo Programme and Navigation and has a research and innovation team within the Director-General of Transport and Mobility of the European Commission.

**Maria Zolotonosa**, *Senior Project Manager, European Network of Science Centres*

Maira Zolotonosa is based in Brussels and has been working at ECSITE for 7 years. Her role is coordinating an EU funded project - “Sparks” - which aims to promote responsible research and innovation. The project includes exhibitions, interactive events, and public artistic creations. Maria also has experience working with UNESCO as well as governmental institutions in Italy.