

# MIT Industrial Liaison Program Faculty Knowledgebase Report

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Space Tech @MIT

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April 22, 2021 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

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11:00 AM

Panel 1: The Evolving SatComms Industry: New Orbits, New Technologies, New Services, and New Competition

Bruce Cameron

Director, [MIT System Architecture Lab](#)



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Director

[MIT System Architecture Lab](#)

Bruce Cameron is the Director of the System Architecture Group at MIT. His research interests include technology strategy, system architecture, and the management of product platforms. Previously, Dr. Cameron ran the MIT Commonality study, a 30-firm investigation of platforming returns, which concluded that firms face systemic downward pressure on commonality, partially resulting from challenges capturing the costs of variety. Dr. Cameron has supervised over 50 graduate students and has directed research projects for Amazon, BP, Sikorsky, Nokia, Caterpillar, AMGEN, Verizon, and NASA. Current research efforts include:

- Platform management in large R&D organizations
- System architecture of complex systems
- Switching costs and retention incentives in ride-hailing firms
- Satellite mega-constellations in Lower Earth Orbit

Dr. Cameron is a co-founder of Technology Strategy Partners, a consultancy created to help firms to restructure product development organizations, build systems engineering functions, and identify new architectures. Dr. Cameron has led projects in Fortune 500 firms in high tech, medical devices, transportation, and consumer goods.

[View full bio](#)

Ruy Pinto

Chief Technology Officer

[SES](#)

Weston Marlow

CTO, Analytical Space

[Analytical Space](#)

Gwendolyn Sisto

Manufacturing Engineering Manager

[Airbus](#)

12:00 PM

Panel 2: The New Space Industry: Earth Orbit and Beyond

Ariel Ekblaw

Director, [MIT Space Exploration Initiative](#)



Ariel Ekblaw

Director

[MIT Space Exploration Initiative](#)

Ariel Ekblaw is the founder and Director of the MIT Space Exploration Initiative, a team of over 50 graduate students, staff, and faculty actively prototyping the artifacts of our sci-fi space future. Founded in 2016, the Initiative includes a portfolio of 40+ research projects focused on life in space, and supports an accelerator-like R&D program for payload development and flight testing across MIT. For the Initiative, Ariel drives space-related research across science, engineering, art, and design, and charts an annually recurring cadence of parabolic flights, sub-orbital, and orbital launch opportunities. Ariel graduated with a B.S. in Physics, Mathematics and Philosophy from Yale University and defended her MIT PhD in autonomously self-assembling space architecture for future habitats and space stations in orbit around the Earth, Moon, and Mars. Ariel's work has been featured in *WIRED* (March 2020 cover story), *MIT Technology Review*, *Harvard Business Review*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the BBC, CNN, NPR, IEEE and AIAA proceedings, and more. Humanity stands on the cusp of interplanetary civilization and space is our next, grand frontier. This opportunity to design our interplanetary lives beckons to us—Ariel strives to bring our space exploration future to life.

Lewis Pinault

Partner, Airbus Ventures

Natalya Bailey

CTO & Founder

[Accion Systems](#)

Rei Goffer

Co-Founder and CSO

[Tomorrow.io](#)

Joe Landon

Vice President, Advanced Programs Development

[Lockheed Martin](#)