FULL AGENDA

Space Lead Conference Agenda 2026

Alfaisal University, Riyadh- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Day 01 Sunday, 25 October 2026

08:30 AM – 09:30 AM	**Registration / Wellness Breakfast**
09:30 AM – 10:00 AM	**Conference Tour**
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	**- National Anthem** **- Recitation of Holy Quran** **- Alfaisal University - Journey Towards Excellence and Innovation - Video Presentation** **- Welcome Address - Alfaisal University - Dr. Maha Bint Mishari AlSaud, Steering Committee Chair, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), FII Institute** **-Conference Overview - Dr. Khaled Al-Kattan Scientific Committee Chair, Vice President for Administration & Finance, Dean of College of Medicine - Alfaisal University**
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Opening Remarks & Keynote **Recent Space Advances and Future Applications and Science Opportunities** Speakers: Prof. Charles Elachi
10:45 AM – 11:15 AM	Astronaut keynote **Astro Ali Alqarni to talk about his experience in space and, mission milestones, and the future of space exploration**
10:45 AM – 11:15 AM	Panel 1 **Discussion Panel on Humans in Space; Scientific missions and health** Panellists: **Astro Rayyanah and Astro Dr. Mariam** Moderator: **Dr. Hesham AlShugair, GM of Deep Sea Exploration, KACST**
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Keynote 1 **Space microgravity as an aging and disease model** Speakers: Dr. Khalid Abu Khabar
11:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Talk 1 **Mission Possible – The Art of Engineering Missions That Matter** Speakers: Mr. Khalid Manjoo
11:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Talk 2 **Engineering for Human Spaceflight: Lessons from Starliner and the Artemis Core Stage** Speakers: Dr. Michelle Parker
12:00 PM – 12:20 PM	Recognition Ceremony **Sponsors, Speakers, Committee & Little pioneers**
12:20 PM – 01:00 PM	**Lunch / Prayer Break**

01:00 PM – 01:30 PM

Panel 3: Boeing & KACST

• 1. Engineering for Human Spaceflight: Lessons from Starliner and the Artemis Core Stage
• 2. Can a Spacecraft Handle the Unexpected?

Speakers: Dr. Amani Alonazi, Dr. Ali Alkhaleefah

01:30 PM – 01:45 PM

Talk 3

Space-Borne Observations of the Global Water Cycle

Speakers: Prof. Dara Entekhabi

01:45 PM – 02:00 PM

Talk

KACST's Space Efforts and Research Roadmap

Speakers: Dr. Majid Albahkali

Talk 4

02:00 PM – 02:15 PM

Presentation

MADAK Program outcomes

Speakers: Ms. Aya Aljuhani

Presentation

02:15 PM – 02:30 PM

Talk 5

Small Space Operations - Science Missions in the New Space Era

Speakers: Dr. Andrew Klesh

02:15 PM – 03:15 PM

Workshop

Gravity of Discovery: Space Research in Science and Medicine

Speakers: Dr. Wijdan Al-Ahmadi, Dr. Baraa Alghaylini

1 HR Workshop (Health and Medicine)

02:30 PM – 02:45 PM

Talk 6

Hyperspectral Earth Observation for Saudi Arabia: Emerging Capabilities and National Applications

Speakers: Dr. Naif Zaid Alsalem

02:45 PM – 03:00 PM

Break

03:00 PM – 04:30 PM

Workshop

From First Light in Saudi Skies to First Orbit: Engineering a Sovereign SAR Capability

Speakers: Dr. Muhannad Almutiry

1.5 HRs Workshop 2

03:00 PM – 03:15 PM

Keynote

The Next Space Race Is Biological: How Strategic Partnerships Can Position Saudi Arabia to Lead the Future of Space Medicine

Speakers: Dr. Kimberly Washington

03:00 PM – 04:30 PM

Workshop

Planetary Architecture

Speakers: Dr. Elena Manferdini

1.5 HR Workshop 1

03:15 PM – 03:30 PM

Telomere Biology Under Spaceflight Stress: Implications for Aging

Speakers: Dr. Taghreed Al-Turki

03:30 PM – 03:45 PM	**Space for All. Disability and Spaceflight** Speakers: Dr. Irene di Giulio
03:45 PM – 04:00 PM	Talk 7 **Ageing beyond earth** Speakers: Dr. Ghada Alsaleh
04:00 PM – 04:30 PM	Talk 8 **Rethinking Architecture: Bio-Inspired Computational Design for a Resource-Conscious** Speakers: Prof. Achim Menges
04:30 PM – 05:30 PM	Panel 1 **Planet-Conscious Architecture** Speakers: Prof. Chris Bosse, Prof. Kasper Oosterhuis, Prof. Achim Menges
05:30 PM – 05:30 PM	**Day 1 Adjournment**

Day 02 Monday, 26 October 2026

08:30 AM – 09:00 AM	**Registration / Wellness Breakfast**
09:00 AM – 09:15 AM	Keynote 1 **Observing Volcanoes from Space with InSAR at Two Wavelengths** Speakers: Prof. Howard Zebker
09:15 AM – 09:45 AM	Presentations **• 1. NISAR fringes across the globe** **• 2. Visualizing Earth Science Data to Enhance Understanding** Speakers: Prof. Mark Simons, Mr. Kevin Hussey
09:45 AM – 10:45 AM	Panel 1 **• 1. From Constellations to Insight: Small Satellites, Radar Imaging, and Visualizing Earth from Space** **• 2. Beyond Access: Sovereignty in the New Space Era** **• 3. Building the National Space Entrepreneurship Ecosystem** Speakers: Eng. Muryah Alshahrani, Eng. AlHarith Almoosa, Prof. Paul Siqueira
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Talk 1 **Use of combined satellite data products and machine-learning to optimize mineral exploration in Saudi Arabia** Speakers: Prof. Paul D. Asimow
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Talk 2 **Exploring the Ocean Worlds of the Outer Solar System: Life as You Know it or Life as You Don't?** Speakers: Prof. Alexander Hayes
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Talk 3 **From Orbit to Decision: Space Data and AI for Sovereign Urban Intelligence** Speakers: Dr. Eman Bin Khunayn
11:30 AM – 11:45 AM	**Break**

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM

Talk 4

Unlocking Space Economy – Space Applications

Speakers: Mr. Waleed Alwalaie

12:00 PM – 12:15 PM

Talk 5

Sophia Space - AI in Space providing Wisdom Above the Cloud

Speakers: Dr. Leon Alkalai

12:15 PM – 12:30 PM

Talk 6

Latitudinal, diurnal, and seasonal variability of the northern equatorial ionization anomaly crest over Saudi Arabia from GPS-derived vertical TEC during the 2020--2021 solar minimum

Speakers: Dr. Thamer Alrefay

12:30 PM – 01:30 PM

Panel 3

• 1. Fuelling the New Space Economy: Venture Capital, Investment Readiness, and Financing
• 2. Enabling the Kingdom's Space Market
• 3. Space Investment

Speakers: Eng. Fahad Alhussain, Eng. Ibrahim Alhawas, Mr. Abdullah Abdulrahman Al Alshaikh

Moderator: Eng. Abdullah I. AlGharrash Scientific Committee Member, Space Lead 2026

01:30 PM – 01:45 PM

Talk 7

Funding the New Space Economy: Venture Capital's Bet on Space

Speakers: Dr. Anastasiia Natrova

01:45 PM – 02:15 PM

Lunch/ Prayer Break

02:15 PM – 02:30 PM

Talk 8

From Space Exploration to Space Industrialization

Speakers: Dr. Davide Marotta

02:30 PM – 02:45 PM

Talk 9

Cures from space

Speakers: Dr. Mathias Link

02:45 PM – 03:00 PM

Talk 10

Autonomous Medical Monitoring for Deep-Space Missions

Speakers: Dr. Sakhaa Almadani

03:00 PM – 03:30 PM

Closing Ceremony and Hackathon Awards

03:30 PM – 03:45 PM

Talk

Earth Is Not a Spaceship

Speakers: Prof. Sandra Haeuplik-Meusburger

03:45 PM – 04:45 PM

Panel

Outer Space Architecture

Speakers: Prof. Sandra Haeuplik-Meusburger, Prof. Kasper Oosterhuis, Liam Young

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04:45 PM – 05:00 PM

Talk

Strange Rooms, or the Ontology of Inference: Building Worlds in the Latent Space

Speakers: Dr. Matías Del Campo

05:00 PM – 06:00 PM	Panel **Comprehensive World-Building** Speakers: Prof. Kasper Oosterhuis, Dr. Elena Manferdini, Dr. Matías Del Campo, Prof. Marcos Novak
06:00 PM – 06:00 PM	**Day 2 Adjournment**