

PUGLIA
L'Italia levante



ITALIA
2025 年大阪・関西万博
EXPO 2025 OSAKA

T E C H T A L K

THE FUTURE OF SPACE TECH

Monday 12th May 2025

3.30 pm - 5.30 pm

Italy Pavillion - Auditorium

Expo 2025 Osaka



Project co-financed by the European Union in accordance with the Operational Programme Puglia 2014-2020
Action 3.5 - Initiatives for strengthening international business development

Overview

According to the latest estimates of the World Economic Forum, the space economy is expected to generate a value of \$1.8 trillion by 2035, up from \$630 billion in 2023, with an average annual growth of 9.0%, thanks to continuous developments and improved access to space-enabled technologies, such as communications, positioning and navigation, Earth observation services.

While the aerospace industry is a capital-intensive industry that, until recently, made some sectors generally inaccessible to smaller companies, today, major technological advances and a new entrepreneurial spirit are rapidly shaping a new "space economy" in which SMEs and start-ups are exploiting frontier technologies and the data revolution to play a key role, developing new services, applications and products.

The rapid evolution of space technology and the global space economy requires continuous attention to innovation, often putting startups in a unique position to introduce new ideas and agile solutions.

Their involvement not only accelerates

technological progress, but also stimulates competition, promoting an environment of creativity and collaboration.

In Italy, as well as in Japan and the U.S., pioneering startups are leading this transformation, introducing revolutionary solutions that redefine the industrial approach to space technology.

These emerging companies are not only innovators, but are instrumental in setting new standards for how we explore and use space to create a sustainable future.

The tech talk meeting on "**The future of Space Tech**" aims to explore public and private initiatives for supporting space start-ups on their journey to success and discuss the best policies to accelerate space start-ups and technologies.

Industry experts and institutions from Italy, Japan and the U.S., will add to the debate on the future of space tech and will be joined by innovative start-ups, interested in presenting new proposals to advance space technologies.

Agenda

3.00 pm	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE
3.30 – 3.40 pm	INTRODUCTION & OPENING REMARKS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Giuseppe Acierno, President & Managing Director, DTA – Technological Aerospace Cluster• Theresa Mulloy, Head of Communications & Inward Investment
3.40 – 4.00 pm	INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elena Sgarbi, Deputy Commissioner General for Italy at EXPO 2025 Osaka• Alessandro Delli Noci, Regional Minister for Economic Development, Regione Puglia• Francesco Paolo Cannito, First Counsellor, Embassy of Italy in Japan
4.00 – 5.00 pm	PANEL: FUNDING AND EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SPACE TECH LEADERS <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theresa Mulloy, Head of Communications & Inward Investment <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alberto Acito, Director, INNOVIT Italian Innovation and Culture Hub• Aya Mori, Deputy Director, Acceleration Program Team, JETRO Startup Support Division• François Poncin, Corporate Planning Office, SPACETIDE Foundation• Mario Erario, Coordinator, ESA BIC Brindisi
5.00 – 5.30 pm	PITCH SESSION: SPACE TECH START-UPS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ilario Lagravinese, CMO & CO-founder, REA Space• Shogo Onishi, CEO & Founder, Space Quarters• Kaz Ishigame, CEO & Co-Founder, Cislunar Technologies
5.30 pm	NETWORKING APERITIVO

Giuseppe Acierno

President & Managing Director, DTA Technological Aerospace Cluster

Giuseppe Acierno, married with three children, has held numerous roles and carried out various functions in Italian public and private companies as well as in public bodies, gaining various experiences in the aerospace field. He is today President and General Director of the Aerospace Technological District (DTA) scarl, member of the governing body of the National Aerospace Technological Cluster, of which he was the first President and founder, member of the board of directors of the ITS aerospace Puglia foundation of which he was the founder, manager of the BIC incubator of the European network of ESA BIC of which he was the founder, responsible of the Italian research infrastructure Grottaglie Airport test bed. He has held various roles such as Ceo of the Apulian airports network, member of the board of directors of ENAV Italian Air Navigation Service Provider, carrying out functions of President of sustainability committee and President of remuneration and appointments committee.



Theresa Mulloy

Head of Communications & Inward Investment

After graduating with an Honours Bachelor's Degree in marketing and languages from Strathclyde University, Theresa moved to Italy to pursue her interest in international marketing, working for over 10 years as a business strategy consultant for SMEs and on international business initiatives for the Italian Confederation of Industry.

In 2003, she was contracted by the Italian Ministry for Economic Development to lead a team, providing technical assistance to Regione Puglia, for the development of international business promotion policies and programmes.

In 2009, she joined Puglia Sviluppo S.p.A., a regional government finance company, which manages funding programmes and financial incentives for business start-ups and investment projects, to lead the team working on international business promotion and inward investment promotion initiatives on behalf of the regional government.

More recently, she was appointed as Head of Communications and Inward Investment and continues to actively promote opportunities for business investments in Puglia, Italy.



Elena Sgarbi

Deputy Commissioner General for Italy at EXPO 2025 Osaka

Born in Mantua (Italy), Elena Sgarbi graduated in Diplomatic and International Science at the University of Trieste in 1997. She entered the Italian Diplomatic Service in 1998. Her first assignment was at the Diplomatic Protocol Department and then at the Minister's Office. Her first post abroad was as Consul of Italy at the Consulate General in Barcelona, Spain, from 2002 to 2006. From 2006 to 2010 Elena Sgarbi was First Secretary and then Counselor for Commercial Affairs at the Embassy of Italy in Tokyo, Japan.

In 2010 she returned to Rome at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, first at the Directorate General for European Integration, where she held the position of Chief of Staff, and then at the Directorate General for European Union as Chief of the Department for the bilateral relations with the Central-Eastern European Countries.

She served as Consul General of Italy in Houston, U.S.A., from 2014 to 2018 and then as Consul General of Italy in Istanbul, Turkey, from 2018 to 2022.

Elena Sgarbi was appointed Deputy Commissioner General for Italy at EXPO 2025 Osaka on June 15 th 2022.





Alessandro Delli Noci

Regional Minister for Economic Development, Regione Puglia

Alessandro Delli Noci graduated in Management Engineering at the University of Salento and subsequently received his Ph.D. in Governance and Political Culture, as well as a Master in Management and Territorial Governance.

At the age of just 29, he was appointed Councillor for Technological innovation, Community, Youth and Labour policies at the City of Lecce, as well as coordinator for the Italian Digital Agenda for ANCI (National Association of Italian Municipalities) and vice-president of CIDAC – Association of the Cities of Art and Culture.

Re-elected, he became Deputy Mayor of the City of Lecce and Councillor for Public works, Strategic planning, Digital agenda, Technological innovation, Europe and Cooperation.

Today, he is regional Minister for Economic development and Competitiveness, International and trade policies, Energy, Industrial research and Innovation, Youth policies and EU Funding Programming at Puglia Regional Government.



Francesco Paolo Cannito

First Counsellor, Embassy of Italy in Japan

Francesco P. Cannito is a career diplomat with almost 20 years' experience in international relations, currently serving as First Counsellor at the Embassy of Italy in Tokyo. He oversees the Economic and Commercial Office coordinating initiatives in science and technology, mobility, energy and infrastructure. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs serving as Desk Officer in the Directorate General for Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Affairs, then as Deputy Chief of Staff and Deputy Director for strategic planning and budget management at the Development Cooperation Department. In this capacity, he lectured a course at LUISS University in Rome. Lately, he served as Head of the Political Affairs and Press Office at the Embassy of Italy in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and as Deputy Head of the Trade, Science & Space Affairs Office at the Embassy of Italy in Washington, USA. Back to Rome, he acted as Chief of Staff to the Head of Legal Affairs' Department before his current assignment in Japan.



Alberto Acito

Director, INNOVIT Italian Innovation and Culture Hub

Alberto Acito is the Managing Director of INNOVIT - Italian Innovation Center in San Francisco, the new Italian Government initiative promoting Italian technologies and startups in Silicon Valley and USA. He brings over 25 years of experience as a senior executive for leading tech multinationals in Italy and Europe, including Wind Telecommunications, 3, Acer, Palm and BlackBerry, where he was Italy's MD, and later Vice President of Southern Europe and Israel.

In 2014, he joined the Silicon Valley based advisory and investment firm SVG Partners. He was later appointed as the Head of the Foreign Direct Investments office at the Italian Trade and Development Agency (ITA), based at the Italian Consulate in San Francisco.

Alberto is an Angel Investor and holds a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering from Milan Polytechnic and a Certificate in Corporate Innovation from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. He serves as an advisor at SkyDeck, UC Berkeley's startup accelerator, and is a member of the scientific advisory board of IFAB, the International Foundation for Big Data and Artificial Intelligence for Human Development, based in Bologna, Italy.



Aya Mori

**Deputy Director, Acceleration Program Team,
JETRO Startup Support Division**

As deputy Director of JETRO's startup division, I support promising Japanese startups in becoming Bone-global. Specifically, I oversee the operation of acceleration programs in collaboration with the world's top accelerators, support for exhibiting at international tech conferences, and planning startup events.



François Poncin

Corporate Planning Office, SPACETIDE Foundation

François Poncin has over 20 years of experience in the financial sector across Asia, having worked in Vietnam, Taiwan, and Japan since 2006. While holding senior management roles, he developed a deep passion for space, viewing it as essential to addressing humanity's future challenges. As a pro-bono member of SPACETIDE's Corporate Planning Office, François promotes international cooperation and sustainability in space, aligning closely with the foundation's mission.

His interests include cis-lunar development, in-situ resource utilization (ISRU), in-orbit servicing/manufacturing, and leveraging space assets for sustainability on Earth and in space.

He holds a Master's degree from HEC Paris and is an alumnus of the ISU Space Studies Program.

Outside of work, he enjoys music, travel, and Aikido.



Mario Erario

Coordinator, ESA BIC Brindisi

Aerospace engineer with a solid academic background and a strong focus on innovation and technology transfer. Graduated cum laude from the University of Salento with an experimental thesis carried out at the Air Force Institute of Technology in Warsaw, focused on dynamic simulation of microturbines for UAV applications. Author of scientific publications and speaker at various industry conferences, he has developed expertise in propulsion systems, advanced simulation, and aerospace systems.

Since 2021, he has been working at Distretto Tecnologico Aerospaziale (DTA) as a Project Manager, overseeing research and technology transfer projects with particular attention to the space innovation ecosystem. He is the coordinator of ESA BIC Brindisi, the first node in Southern Italy of the European Space Agency's network of incubators, supporting innovative startups in their launch and development phases.



Ilario Lagravinese

CMO & CO-founder, REA Space

Cofounder and Chief Marketing Officer at REA Space, where he leads the company's communication, branding, and strategic positioning efforts. With a background in design, innovation, and startup development, he also supports cross-functional initiatives involving business development, product strategy, and international partnerships.



Shogo Onishi

CEO & Founder, Space Quarters

Founder and CEO of Space Quarters Developing "space assembly technology using welding" to realize large-scale, innovative infrastructure in space, such as huge space station modules and satellite reflectors.

As CEO and chief engineer, leading all technological developments in space Quarters, electron beam welding systems, as well as robotics and Xray inspection system with wide mechanical engineering background.

A winner of the S-booster2022, business competition sponsored by the Japanese government.



Kaz Ishigame

CEO & Co-Founder, Cislunar Technologies

Kaz Ishigame is a Japanese serial entrepreneur working at the intersection of software and space, turning deep-tech ideas into commercially resilient ventures. Since 2013 he has co-founded two startups and served as COO for three others, guiding one to a successful exit. In 2016 he co-founded Infostellar, the world's first cloud-native ground-station-sharing network for small satellites, where he built global partnerships and earned a spot on the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list (Enterprise Technology, 2018).

In 2023 he returned to the space sector to found Cislunar Technologies, which works hand-in-hand with customers to deliver semi-custom spacecraft capable of executing missions from Earth orbit to the Moon and beyond.

Beyond his entrepreneurial work, Kaz is a certified professional coach who, over the past four years, has helped more than twenty entrepreneurs sharpen their strategic thinking and cross-cultural communication skills.

