

PRESS RELEASE
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Global Space Business Leaders to Converge on Dubai for Inaugural World Space Risk Forum

Forum to be held in association with the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)

Over 280 delegates will exchange ideas on understanding and mitigating risk in order to heighten investor activity

Middle East set to play increasing role in space insurance, satellite manufacturing, operations, research and development

(Dubai, UAE) The World Space Risk Forum, a bi-annual conference that brings together professionals in the space business, will be held, in association with the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), in Dubai from 1 to 3 March 2010. Over 280 delegates, 85 % of whom are from overseas, will come together at the forum to exchange ideas on space risk management and insurance.

Delegates attending the event will include CEOs and CFOs of satellite manufacturers, satellite operators and launch service providers, in addition to all the major global insurance brokers and underwriter companies. Over the course of the three-day forum, they will discuss key topics such as Technical Developments in the Space Industry; Impact of the Global Economy on the Space Industry; Legal and Regulatory Environment within the Space Industry; and the outlook for the sector over the next three decades. A panel of industry experts will debate each session topic giving the audience an opportunity to gain insights on new developments in the space industry and their economic consequences.

The event will feature a number of key note addresses from the likes of Will Whitehorn, President of Virgin Galactic; Jean-Yves Le Gall, CEO of Arianespace; David Williams, Chief Executive of Avanti Communications; Pdraig McCarthy, CFO of SES Astra; and Faraj Elamari, CEO of Rascom. Dr. Ramin Khadem, Chairman of Odyssey Moon, will deliver the opening key note speech on the future of the space industry.

Abdulla Mohammed Al Awar, CEO of the DIFC Authority said: "Dubai is well placed to play a leading role in the development of the space business in the Middle East. The inaugural World Space Risk Forum, apart from offering a forum for discussing critical global issues in the space industry, will highlight the opportunities that Dubai can take advantage of to develop as a hub for the space business. The Dubai International Financial Centre is keen to support the development of niche financial services sectors like space risk management, which play an important role in supporting the growth of the space industry. The World Space Risk Forum in Dubai promises to generate a wealth of new insights, strategies and solutions for managing risk in the rapidly evolving space industry."

Jeff Cassidy, of Global Aerospace and Chairman of the World Space Risk Forum 2010 Working Committee commented: "The World Space Risk Forum's inaugural event in Dubai is a significant milestone in fulfilling His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's long term commitment of establishing aerospace, high technologies and telecommunication as key strategic industries for the emirate's future economic success.

"The opportunity that the space industry, currently worth over \$150 billion per year globally, can offer Dubai and the UAE, is significant. Already locally based companies such as Elseco, Thuraya, Yahsat and Dubaisat are making significant strides to accessing this potential. With the world's leading space business experts congregating here for the forum, both the UAE and the Middle East have an opportunity to enhance their role in the global space industry."

As part of the World Space Risk Forum activities, DIFC will be hosting an official reception on Monday, 1st March 2010. Further information on the World Space Risk Forum, including registration details and a full programme agenda can be viewed at www.wsrf2010.com

For further information on the World Space Risk Forum,; enquiries about media accreditation; or to set up interviews with key event speakers, please contact:

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