

## Space And Satellite Experts Set Eyes On Abu Dhabi As The Uae Leads The Middle East'S Pursuit Into Space

Dubai, UAE, 15 April, 2013: More than 400 experts will converge in Abu Dhabi next month to examine the latest space technology and emerging commercial and investment opportunities at a time when the UAE is moving ahead to lead the Middle East into space.

The Global Space & Satellite Forum, the region's premier space and satellite industry event, will provide a valuable opportunity for international space experts to network with regional leaders and share information about upcoming commercial space applications in earth observation, remote sensing, location based services, navigation and military satellite communications (milsatcom).

The Middle East is fast becoming a major aerospace hub boosted by investment in technology, expertise and facilities. At the focal point of the new push is the US\$50 million DubaiSat-2 earth observation satellite by the Emirates Institute for Advanced Science and Technology (EIAST) slated for launch this year, providing ample evidence of the Emirates' thought leadership role in space technology research and creation of regional space programmes.

Taking place from 7-8 May 2013 at the Ritz Carlton Grand Canal, the fourth edition of the forum is co-located with the Milsatcom Middle East conference, featuring speakers from the UAE Armed Forces, and Ministry of Defence and Aviation Saudi Arabia. International speakers include those from the Ministry of Defence in the UK, US Department of State and Canadian Armed Forces.

The Global Space and Satellite Forum comprises a notable line-up of top ranking officials from more than 20 regional national space programmes and research centres who will deliver presentations about developments in earth observation, disaster management and geo-information services, space policy and the economics of commercial space business.

Salem Humaid Al Marri, Assistant Director General for Scientific and Technical Affairs at EIAST, said: "DubaiSat -2 reflects the dedication, expertise and commitment of our team of highly skilled UAE engineers working on the project. Through the successful implementation of this project, EIAST is aiming to enhance the position of UAE in the scientific and technology arena."

Al Marri is among the prime speakers of the two-day conference highlighting the efforts of the UAE in earth observation and showcasing how the Emirates is empowering its nationals in space systems engineering and development in this field.

The Global Space and Satellite Forum will also host a top assembly of space experts, including Frank Rose, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Space and Defence Affairs from the US Department of State, who will participate as a panellist in the opening session about technological developments and future prospects for the space sector.

Anthony Colucci, Vice President, Space Systems Loral will talk about the economic impact of satellite based information and services while Catherine Mealing-Jones, Director of UK Space Agency will join Dr. Sa'id Mosteshar, Director, London Institute of Space Policy and Law in a session about the importance of a well planned space policy for developing countries planning space launches.

Organised by Streamline Marketing Group, the conference and exhibition will present an opportunity for space experts and representatives from non-space industries to exchange information related to space technology, research and development and the commercial applications and investment opportunities that exist.

Biju Saith, Conference Director, Streamline Marketing Group, said: "The Global Space and Satellite Forum will provide an essential platform for national space agencies, space research institutions, entrepreneurs, governments and private corporations to contribute to the future of the global space industry.

"A supporting exhibition will feature alongside the forum giving global space and satellite technology providers an opportunity to engage with key decision makers from the region."

The Global Space and Satellite Forum and Milsatcom Middle East is supported by Space Reconnaissance, Emirates Institute for Advanced Science and Technology (EIAST), Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRA) and GVF and sponsored by Gold Sponsors Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd, Yahsat, Astrium, Thales and ThalesAlenia Space.

Further information about the Global Space and Satellite Forum and Milsatcom Middle East is available at [www.gssforum.com](http://www.gssforum.com) / [www.milsatcom.me](http://www.milsatcom.me).

Caption The Global Space and Satellite Forum and Milsatcom Middle East will take place from 7-8 May 2013 at the Ritz Carlton Grand Canal in Abu Dhabi.