



Launch Event: *Lost Without Translation:* *Identifying Gaps in U.S. Perceptions of the Chinese Commercial Space Sector*

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Speaker Bios

Report Authors

Ian Christensen is Director of Private Sector Programs at Secure World Foundation (SWF), a non-profit organization promoting the secure, sustainable and peaceful uses of outer space contributing to global stability and benefits on Earth. He is responsible for leading SWF's engagement activities with the commercial space industry, where his activities focus on policy and governance topics in support of the development of private sector space capabilities: including topics such as space debris mitigation, norms of behavior for responsible space operations, and space resources policy. In this role Mr. Christensen co-leads an ongoing dialogue project exploring US and Chinese perspectives on space commercialization. Mr. Christensen was a member of the Hague International Space Resources Governance Working Group, where he chaired the Group's Socioeconomic Panel. He is also a member of the Secretariat for the Consortium for Execution of Rendezvous and Servicing Operations (CONFERS), an industry group developing best practices and standards for commercial satellite servicing.

Prior to joining SWF, Mr. Christensen worked at leading space-sector consulting firms Futron Corporation and Avascent. In these positions he managed or served in lead analysis roles on market, business planning, and forecasting studies for numerous governmental and commercial space sector clients in the United States, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

Prior to Futron, Mr. Christensen was a research assistant at the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University, a Policy Fellow at the National Academies of Science Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy, and a research assistant at the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. Read Mr. Christensen's publications. Mr. Christensen holds a Master of Arts (M.A.) in international science and technology policy, focusing on space policy from the George Washington University Elliott School for International Affairs. He holds dual Bachelor's of Science (B.S.) degrees in political science and biochemistry from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He also completed the International Space University (ISU) 2007 Space Studies Program in Beijing, China.

Rob Ronci is the executive director of the Caelus Foundation, a non-profit organization with a mission to critically engage with and expand participation in the space sector. Through the Caelus Foundation, he has produced insightful space industry research and co-leads a track-II diplomatic dialogue between US and Chinese stakeholders. Prior to joining Caelus Foundation, Rob worked as an independent researcher supporting global space policy reports in the US and Canada for organizations such as the Secure World Foundation and the Space Foundation. His specialties are international affairs, cross-cultural and cross-sector communication, and critically evaluating complex problems. He earned a master's of science in International Relations studying in Norway at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, and earned his bachelor's in Business Administration at Colorado State University. Rob has served as a Peace Corps Volunteer, interned with the US State Department, managed multiple small businesses, and has lived, worked, and studied across four continents. He is currently based in Denver, Colorado.

Kathryn Walsh is currently pursuing a MS in Cybersecurity at the University of Denver and graduated with an MA in International Security in 2019. Before attending graduate school, she worked in nonproliferation at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Kathryn has spent two semesters studying abroad in China where she developed understanding of Mandarin and regional dynamics. While at the University of Denver, she served as Editorial Assistant for *The Journal of Contemporary China*, published by the Center for China-U.S. Cooperation. Kathryn also served as a Research Intern at Secure World Foundation. Kathryn's areas of interest include emerging technologies and Chinese affairs. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Policy Economy from Colorado College.

Discussants

Blaine Curcio is an Affiliate Senior Consultant for Euroconsult, based in Hong Kong. Since joining Euroconsult in 2018, he has contributed to a wide range of consulting missions and research reports, primarily covering the satcom sector globally, and broader space industry in China. Blaine is Euroconsult's resident China expert, contributing to client engagements and research projects with unique insights on the Chinese space industry collected during his nearly one decade in the country.

Over the course of his career for multiple space/satcom consulting and research houses, Blaine has authored more than 10 market research studies, and managed or contributed to dozens of consulting missions, including for the China National Space Administration (CNSA), Es'hailSat, Inmarsat, Centerbridge Partners, and others. His specialities lie in macroeconomic analysis, policy analysis, and the intersection of geopolitics and space, particularly in the context of US-China relations. Blaine is a major contributor to Euroconsult's research reports on satellite communications and the Chinese space sector, including Euroconsult's China Space Industry Report and Government Space Programs report.

In addition to his work at Euroconsult, Blaine has a consultancy in Hong Kong specializing in China space industry opportunities. Previously, Blaine has worked for other space/satcom industry research houses, and global satellite operator SES.

Ellen Chang

Brendan Mulvaney is currently the Director of the China Aerospace Studies Institute at National Defense University. He was a Marine for a quarter of a century, where he flew more than 2000 hours as a AH-1W Cobra pilot, and was an Olmsted Scholar in Shanghai, China.

He enlisted in 1991 and was commissioned in 1993 after graduating from UC San Diego. He earned his Master's in Leadership from the University of San Diego in 2002, and was selected as one of three Marine Olmsted Scholars for 2003. He studied at Fudan University in Shanghai, China from 2003-2005 where he earned his Ph.D. in International Relations.

He served several tours in California, Iraq, Japan, and the Western Pacific. He served as the first Director of the Commandant's Red Team, and supervised the implementation of Red Teaming in the Marine Corps. In 2013 he transferred to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he was the Associate Chair for the Languages and Cultures Department, and taught Mandarin Chinese, Chinese culture, and cross-cultural literacy.

He and his wife, Samantha, have twin thirteen-year old boys, Sean and Ryan, and live in Alexandria, VA