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We Will ALL Be Space Engineers

Abstract:

For decades, space advocates and visionaries have predicted that in the future there will be industry and cities in space. In the past few years, a few billionaires have famously shown that industry can get into the spacecraft launch business independently, without being funded through government contracts. On the International Space Station, entrepreneurs are demonstrating how the space environment can enable making new products. Although we aren't where the visionaries of the 1970s thought we would be by now, we are developing a much clearer picture of how the human economy will expand into space, and what we expect to be doing there in the not-so-distant future. In this presentation, one of those space visionaries shares expectations for industrialization and settlement in space, and describes how all of the engineering disciplines involved with developing and maintaining infrastructure on Earth will be needed to develop and maintain infrastructure in space and on the Moon—whether they know it or not now, companies currently supplying products for customers on Earth will likely be supplying products for customers in space, and they will likely conclude that the best manufacturing sites for supplying space communities are in space.

Biography:

Anita Gale is a Senior Project Engineer in Space Shuttle Payload & Cargo Integration for The Boeing Company in Houston. Her professional career started on the Space Shuttle program in 1974 for Rockwell International in Downey, California. She provides conceptual designs for cargo integration on future launch vehicles, contributes to R&D for Shuttle upgrades and future missions of both reusable and expendable launch vehicles, and develops and fosters process improvements. She holds three US patents on launch vehicle payload interface standardization and containerization, which are essential technologies for reducing future vehicle processing costs and schedules.



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