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SPACEBOARD—THE PROFESSIONAL NETWORK OF THE SPACE INDUSTRY

**Abstract**

Niche professional networks—targeted networks customised to serve the exclusive needs of a niche audience—are at the forefront of professional online networking. They have an edge over broader popular networks for their extremely focussed and information-centric approach to interactions. They also benefit from having little or no noise generated by content that is irrelevant to an individual's professional needs. These networks are designed to bring important career-related content to the user's fingertips and to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise among professionals at all levels of the industry. At the same time, they allow users to join in engaging conversations or simply browse the database to stay up to date.

SpaceBoard is a niche professional network dedicated exclusively to the field of space. Its goal is to create a unified platform that serves all space industry players, promoting the advancement of space and fostering academic, professional and business opportunities. Its platform will feature a broad set of functionalities developed specifically to create a user-friendly interactive online environment for space networking purposes. These functionalities will enable users to create their profiles on the platform to publicise their competencies, connect with like-minded peers, link up with organisations, consult study programmes, monitor job openings and stay abreast of breaking news, deadlines and upcoming conferences.

The transfer of knowledge among students, young professionals and experts is often cumbersome due to the lack of a unified interactive platform. To accelerate progress and innovation, it is essential to facilitate the exchange of facts and ideas between peers and generations. All content on SpaceBoard—including questions, articles, publications and projects—will be categorised according to pre-determined space-related topics in order to ensure immediate access to relevant information. The platform will also contain designated areas intended to foster communication and encourage discussions, debates, QA and other exchanges between users.

The field of space is thriving thanks to communities of individuals brought together by common interests, beliefs and passions. In the intervals between live events, these communities can find it difficult to interact and communicate on a regular basis. SpaceBoard proposes to resolve this issue by providing existing societies and networks with dedicated features in public and/or private areas with the aim of enhancing interaction and leveraging community affiliations.