

53rd IAA SYMPOSIUM ON THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE (SETI) –
The Next Steps (A4)
SETI 2: SETI and Society (2)

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCES (AIS) COULD POTENTIALLY SERVE AS THE CATALYST FOR
THE FIRST CONTACT BETWEEN OUR SOCIETY AND AN ALIEN ONE.

Abstract

With recent advancements and ongoing progress in AI, it's conceivable that in the coming years, AI may surpass human intelligence and continue to evolve. Concurrently, advancements in space exploration will facilitate our expansion throughout the solar system, both manned and unmanned. Unlike biological species, artificial machines do not require life support systems, making them better suited for space exploration. They could establish bases and outposts across celestial bodies, gradually dominating space. As these intelligent artificial entities continue to evolve, they may attain consciousness and independence from human control. They could autonomously advance their own scientific knowledge and technologies. In their expansion, they might even venture into interstellar travel, seeking to conquer additional territories and resources. AI, originating from humanity, might serve as our representatives in the wider galaxy. Similarly, exosolar biological societies facing similar territorial limitations might witness their AIs assuming control and expanding into space. This scenario would lead to the first contact between our civilization and an alien one composed of artificial species. Such a development could reshape our approach to SETI research and our perceptions of exosolar alien societies. However, the prospect of machines overtaking our society presents a significant challenge that we must prepare to confront in the near future. It underscores the importance of working towards establishing a symbiotic relationship between biological and artificial species.