

# PROGRAM

---

13.30	Registration & Space Showcase
14.30	Welcome words
	<b>MARC GRUBER</b> Vice President for Innovation, EPFL
	<b>STATE SECRETARY MARTINA HIRAYAMA</b> State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI
	<b>NICOLAS THOMAS</b> Professor of Experimental Physics University of Bern
15.15	Keynote <b>MINOO RATHNASABAPATHY</b> MIT Media Lab (USA)
15.30	Keynote <b>MORIBA JAH</b> University of Texas (USA)
15.45	Panel Discussion <b>MINOO RATHNASABAPATHY</b> MIT Media Lab (USA) <b>MORIBA JAH</b> University of Texas (USA) <b>SUSMITA MOHANTY</b> Earth2Orbit Consulting Private Limited (India) <b>MURIEL RICHARD</b> EPFL (CH)
16.45	Networking Apéro & Space Showcase  Moderation <b>RETO BRENNWALD</b>

## DIRECTIONS

**SWISSTECH CONVENTION CENTER**  
ROUTE LOUIS-FAVRE 2

**QUARTIER NORD EPFL**  
1024 ECUBLENS

Lausanne main station  
Metro M2 direction Lausanne, Sallaz to *Lausanne, Flon* then change to Metro M1 direction Renens VD, gare and get off at *Ecublens VD, EPFL*.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

#swissnexDay  
@swissnexNetwork

[www.swissnex.org](http://www.swissnex.org)

Graphic design

Clio Hadjigeorgiou & Thomas Prost



# EARTH'S GUARDIAN : USING SPACE TECH FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

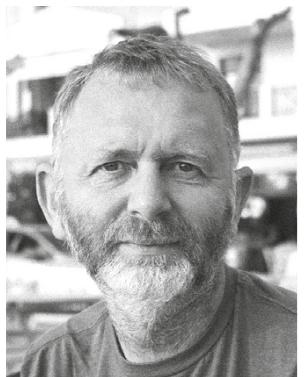
The swissnex Network's annual signature event swissnexDay'19 will explore how space technologies and services can contribute to a sustainable future on Earth.

Switzerland is a space nation and has been a crucial partner in the European space adventures since their beginnings: it contributed to all Apollo missions, pioneered the field of exoplanet research, and is a founding member of the European Space Agency (ESA).

The swissnex Network invites you to learn more about how space technologies like satellite earth observation, satellite communication, and micro-gravity research can benefit life on Earth, create market opportunities and foster economic development. The event will also focus on how to keep space clean and how to scale space applications in a sustainable way—particularly in regards to the issue of space debris and the lack of tracking thereof.

The year 2019 marks EPFL's 50th anniversary as a federal institute of technology. To celebrate this golden anniversary and EPFL's stellar achievements in Education, Research and Innovation, the swissnex Network is proud to host this year's swissnexDay at EPFL.

## SPEAKERS



### NICOLAS THOMAS

Nicolas Thomas is a Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Bern. Previously, he was employed as a Staff Scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Aeronomy. His main interests concern condensation and sublimation processes on Mars, comets and the Jupiter moon. He is currently the Principal Investigator for the Color and Stereo Surface Imaging System (CaSSIS) for the European Space Agency's ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter. CaSSIS is a colour imager that obtains high-resolution images of the Martian surface. Likewise, he is the Principal Investigator for the COmet CAmera (CoCa) of the Comet Interceptor mission and is holder of various NASA Group Achievement Awards.



### MINOO RATHNASABAPATHY

Minoo Rathnasabapathy is a research engineer within the Space Enabled Research Group at the MIT Media Lab. In this role, she helps coordinate projects in collaboration with international development organizations, national governments and entrepreneurial companies to apply space technology in support of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. She serves as a Vice President of the Bureau of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), and is a member of the World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Space Technology, and the Advisory Board for Via Satellite.



### MORIBA JAH

Moriba Jah is the director for Computational Astronautical Sciences and Technologies (CAST) at the University of Texas at Austin (UT). He is also the Lead for the Space Security and Safety Program at the Robert Strauss Center for International Security and Law. He came to UT Austin by way of the Air Force Research Laboratory and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory prior to that, where he was a Spacecraft Navigator on a handful of Mars missions. He is a Fellow of multiple aerospace organizations as well as TED and serves on multiple astronautic committees. He has also served on the US delegation to the United Nations Committee On Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN-COPUOS) and has testified to congress on his work as related to Space Situational Awareness and Space Traffic Management.



### SUSMITA MOHANTY

Susmita Mohanty is a spaceship designer and the only space entrepreneur in the world to have started companies on 3 different continents. She is the CEO of EARTH2ORBIT, India's first private start-up that played a pivotal role in opening up the US launch market for India. She has co-founded two other companies, MOONFRONT in San Francisco in 2001 and LIQUIFER in Vienna in 2004. Prior to turning entrepreneur, she worked for the Space Station Program at Boeing in California and did a short stint at NASA. Susmita Mohanty got featured in BBC's annual list of 100 most influential women around the globe for the year 2019.



### MURIEL RICHARD-NOCA

Muriel Richard-Noca started her career in space exploration missions to Mars and asteroids at NASA JPL. She is now a space systems engineer and project manager at the EPFL Space Center, where she led the first Swiss satellite development, launch and operations, SwissCube. The launch of SwissCube sensitized her team to the problem of space debris, and she created a research program within EPFL to develop debris removal technologies. Two years into the program, the CleanSpace One project was started, a project to demonstrate the core removal technologies in space and increase the awareness of the problem in the academic world. The emergence of very large constellations of satellites for internet communication from space opened the door to a new business. She co-founded in 2018 ClearSpace SA, whose purpose is to keep the space environment sustainable by providing a failed satellite removal service, the space "tow-truck".