

Establishment of Space Port Japan Association

The Space Port Japan Association (hereinafter, “SPJ”) was established recently and has begun activities as a general incorporated association, with the aim of opening spaceports in Japan and making the country an Asian hub for the space travel business.

Background and Profile

With the emergence of NewSpace, the space industry has been expanding on a yearly basis, and is expected to grow in scale from around 40 trillion yen at present to more than 100 trillion yen over the next 30 years. The space travel business is also getting off the ground, particularly in the United States, and it is becoming likelier that it will develop into an enormous market in the future.

Among this, the positioning of Japan, a space development leader that will see the creation of Asia’s first spaceport, as a space travel business hub will be of huge significance for the future development of the space and related industries.

SPJ will be collaborating with relevant companies, groups, and government institutions both domestically and internationally to support efforts to open spaceports in Japan at the earliest opportunity. It will also be working with companies involved in developing and operating space planes and manned rockets taking off from the port, and striving to involve industries with no prior connection with space, all with the aim of making Japan an Asian hub for the space travel business.

Association Profile

- Name: Space Port Japan Association (SPJ)
- Established : July 2018
- Purpose : Promote the country’s aerospace and related industries on a wide scale by opening spaceports in Japan
- URL : www.spaceport-japan.org

Initial Member Companies (alphabetical order)

The list includes the following:

- Airbus Japan K.K.
- ANA Holdings Inc.
- Marubeni Corporation
- Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd.
- SKY Perfect JSAT Corporation

Co-founders & Directors

Naoko Yamazaki, Representative Director

After graduating with a master's degree from the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Engineering, Ms. Yamazaki joined NASDA (now JAXA) and in 1999 was selected as an astronaut candidate for the International Space Station (ISS), subsequently joining an ISS assembly and resupply mission aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery in April 2010. She currently serves as a member of the Cabinet Office's Space Policy Committee as well as a visiting university professor, etc, and brings her own experience of astronaut training and space flight to the table as the Association's representative.

Hidetaka Aoki, Director

Mr. Aoki is a partner in charge of space & robotics at Global Brain Corporation. After obtaining a master's degree in aerospace engineering and his pilot's license both in the US, he developed the "Kounotori" spacecraft at Mitsubishi Electric and won a number of awards. He now oversees investment activities for space and other deep tech startups as a venture capitalist. As a "Space Business Evangelist", he is helping to create a private sector-led space industry and co-founded and serves as a board member of SPACETIDE Foundation. He also serves JAXA and government committees in his varied career.

Shinichiro Onitsuka, Director

Mr. Onitsuka is a project manager of the New Space Business Development Task Project in the Group Corporate Strategy Office of ANA Holdings Co., Ltd. After graduating from university, he worked at an airline-affiliated trading company where he took part in developing new aviation-related services, aircraft leasing, and consulting on logistics matters, among other duties. His current responsibilities include formulating company-wide strategies, supporting the implementation of business strategies in specific sectors, promoting innovation-related investments, and arranging airport concessions.

Toshihiro Katayama, Director

Mr. Katayama works at Dentsu Corporation. At the start of his career, he was involved in a wide range of projects across areas such as sales promotion, media marketing, creative design, and content business. Following this, he worked in sales at a cosmetics manufacturer and a general electric machinery manufacturer. He currently handles such priority national strategy topics as petroleum and resource energy, SDGs, the Olympics, and infrastructure exports. Since 2015, he has also been deeply involved in the space business, taking part for example in Japan-UAE space diplomacy.

Mihoko Shintani, Director

After graduating from Keio University Faculty of Law, Ms. Shintani became a registered attorney in 2006 as a member of the TMI Associates law firm. She particularly possesses expertise in aviation and space law, intellectual property rights, IT and communications matters, business startups, and risk management. In 2013 Ms. Shintani also matriculated at Columbia Law School in New York and upon graduation she has led a wide range of cases for multiple clients in the aerospace industry, including major disputes between private companies, space venture investment, and space business transactions.

Shinichi Takata, Director

Mr. Takata is a J-SPARC (JAXA Space Innovation through Partnership and Co-creation) Producer at JAXA's New Enterprise Promotion Department. After graduating with a master's degree in aerospace engineering, he joined JAXA, first working on rocket engine development and then helping develop and operate the "KOUNOTORI" (HTV) spacecraft, as well as coordinating on the International Space Station and future exploration programs in Houston, Texas, USA. In his present position, he is striving to construct new businesses and economic spheres oriented toward future space travel through co-creation efforts with the private sector.

Hideyuki Taguchi, Director

Dr. Taguchi graduated from the graduate school of The University of Tokyo. He worked on space propulsion research at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, and the National Aerospace Laboratory of Japan (NAL) . He is now working at JAXA conducting research on hypersonic passenger airplanes, which will be able to cross the Pacific Ocean in two hours. He is leading the world's first successful operating tests of the hypersonic turbojet engine, which is capable of continuous operation from takeoff to Mach 5. His goal in life is to travel into space by a space plane designed by himself.

<Press inquiries on these matters should be directed to:>

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Email : info@spaceport-japan.org

URL : www.spaceport-japan.org