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## World CanSat/Rocketry Championship (WCRC)

### List of Worldwide WCRC POCs (Person of Contact)

The WCRC takes care of the protection of the privacy of its members, all participants and third parties, so contacting the persons (POCs) from the list below goes through a centralized system through which messages are redirected to the POCs.

**Instruction:**

Please just send a message to the email: [poc@wcrc.world](mailto:poc@wcrc.world) and enter the Name of the POC to whom the message refers in the Subject field. The message will be forwarded to the specified POC and the POC will continue communication with you via personal email.

26<sup>th</sup> January 2021



**Justyna Pelc**

Poland

Affiliation: Innspace

Justyna is a co-founder and leader of a space group from Poland known as Innspace. As a team, they are implementing projects related to space engineering, mainly connected with Mars and suborbital flights. They won the ESA Grand Prix in the Student Aerospace Challenge 2019 and the ArianeGroup Prize in the Student Aerospace Challenge 2020, took 5th place in the Mars Colony Prize in the USA, won the Gold Winner and Winner for two projects in the Future Mars Life competition in China, were awarded in First Colony on Mars competition, and also won the ActInSpace 2020 hackathon in Germany.

Apart from Innspace, Justyna is also active in other space organizations. She is the National Point of Contact for Poland in Space Generation Advisory Council, a member of the Student Council at the President of the Polish Space Agency and a member of the Board of the Polish Astrobiological Society.

Additionally, she is also associated with Mars Society South Asia, where she is a member of the Advisory



**Lama Fahhad Aloraiman**

Kuwait

Affiliation: Ignition Kuwait and the Space Generation Advisory Council

Kicking her career off in the space sector as Kuwait's National Point of Contact for the Space Generation Advisory Council and making her way to the seats of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Lama has an ultimate goal of promoting the voice of Kuwait's youth to the global space community. Lama Al-Oraiman is a Mechanical Engineering student at the American University of the Middle East and is the current Vice President of Ignition which is the Mars Society Chapter of Kuwait, as well as being Kuwait's National Coordinator for the World Space Week Association. She stepped into the field of space in 2018 by becoming Kuwait's representative in a number space non-profits and initiatives in support of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. Lama continues to promote diversity within the space community by delegating in the world's biggest space conferences annually, competing in global hackathons that solve real life issues using space technology, and organizing events both locally and internationally to raise awareness on the importance of space exploration.



**Mahmut Egrioz**

Turkey

Affiliation: Grizu-263

I participated in 3 international competitions and one national competition.



**Daniel Sors Raurell**

UK and Spain

Affiliation: Open Cosmos

danisors.co



**Cristian Valenzuela**

Chile

Affiliation: Space Growers

I'm currently working on a space start up that seeks to develop hostile conditions resistant crops (Space Growers) and I'm part of a space foundation that promotes the space ecosystem here in Chile (Fundación Spatio Australis).



**Lorenzo Quevedo Mantovani**

Brazil

Affiliation: Aeronautics Institute of Technology (ITA)

I am an Aerospace Engineering with background experience with CubeSats and obtained first place in the Second Latin American CubeDesign competition in CanSat category. Currently, I am obtaining my master's degree at the Aeronautical Institute of Technology.



**Marvelours Oluwatofunmi Ayinde**

**Nigeria**

Affiliation: Kwara State University

A student of Aerospace Engineering currently in year four in Kwara State University



**Khash-Erdene Gankhuyag**

**Mongolia**

Affiliation: Physics and Electronics School National University of Mongolia

I am engineer of electronic.



**Hernán David Mateus Jiménez**

**Colombia**

Affiliation: NymSpace

CEO of the startup NymSpace. He is also National Point of Contact for Colombia of the Space Generation Advisory Council and a member of The Mars Society Latin America.



**José Godinho Uzcátegui**

**Mongolia**

Affiliation: Space Lawyer

Lawyer. Passionate about space. Investigator. Member of SGAC and WSW.



**Mwiche Simpemba**

Zambia

Affiliation: SGAC ZAMBIA

I am a space enthusiast, Physicist and the SGAC National Point of Contact for Zambia. I also served as the first president of the Copperbelt University Physics Society. With the growing network of space enthusiasts, volunteers and university I have been pushing to implement space science activities in Zambia.



**Dr. Bárbara Bermúdez Reyes**

Mexico

Affiliation:

Dr. Bárbara Bermúdez Reyes. Engineer in Materials graduated from the Technological Institute of Morelia. PhD in Sciences of Metallurgy and Materials Science from the University of Michoacan. She was Secretary General of UNISEC-Mexico from 2014 to 2020, besides belonging to the Space Science and Technology Network (REDCYTE). She accounts with the Level I of the National System of Researchers. She has collaborated in projects with the Mexican Air Force. Its Research Lines are: Aerospace Materials and Protective Coatings for Satellite Structures.



**Hoda Awny**

Egypt

Affiliation: SGAC EGYPT

Hoda Awny is an Electronics and Communications Engineer with a high interest in Space applications and technologies. She is currently Space Generation Advisory Council National Point of Contact in Egypt, Middle East Region and Moon Village Association National coordinator, Egypt. She is a member of the Egyptian Team participating in the Moon Village Association - Participation of Emerging Space Countries (MVA-PESC) project building and implementing a plan for Egypt's National Lunar Exploration Road-map.



**Allan Okoth Akwiri**

Kenya

Affiliation: STEM 2030 Ltd

I am Founding Board Member of SPACK (Space Partnerships & Applications for Civilians in Kenya) and the Founder of STEM 2030 Ltd, which seeks to offer hands-on access Science and Technology activities for the academic sector in Kenya. We have focused on robotics to offer STEM training to the high school segment since 2010 but from 2013 started branching into space science as a route to generate wider and faster recognition, acceptance and adoption of STEM among the youth.



**Ruvimbo Samanga**

Zimbabwe

Affiliation: Zimbabwean National Space Agency

Ruvimbo Samanga studied Law at the University of Pretoria up to Masters Level. Her Masters dissertation was on the Investment and Space Policy aspects of satellite technology in Zimbabwe's mining sector. She is the National Point of Contact for the UN Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) for Zimbabwe as well as the National Representative for Women in Aerospace Africa (WIAA), Zimbabwe chapter. Ruvimbo has attended various high-level forums on Space in Australia, Germany, Austria, South Africa, Botswana, Ethiopia and Nigeria, and has moderated the Space Law & Policy Working Group at the African Leadership Congress, Youth Forum in Ethiopia. She has been instrumental in planning some of these regional meetings.

Her interest in space law began when she participated as a semi-finalist in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition in Adelaide, Australia, and was named Best African Speaker in 2017. The following year she coached the University of Pretoria team and won the World Finals in Bremen, Germany, held during the 68th International Astronautical Congress in 2018. This was the first African team to win since the inception of the competition in 1991. Since then Ruvimbo has received a number of awards in recognition of her endeavours in Space Law & Policy, including the prestigious Zimbabwean Achiever of the Year Award in the Young Achievers Category and was also recognized as one of the Top 10 under 30 in the African Space Industry in May of 2019.

Ruvimbo is a Ban Ki Moon Global Citizen Scholar for 2020. She is also a Mandela-Rhodes Scholar and was invited to the European Forum Alpbach as a Robert Bosch Scholar in 2019.

She holds membership in Banking on Africa's 10'000 Points of Light Programme, a Pan-African Youth led development think tank. She was recently pre-selected for the European Commission's Young Leaders Program at the Global EU Development Conference set for 2021 in Munich, Germany. She currently works as a researcher and freelance writer/policy analyst having contributed to a number of reports for GMES & Africa, the AU, as well as the annual African Space Industry



**Kiyini Joseph Balamazze**

Uganda

Affiliation: Space Generation Advisory Council / Organisation of African Space Sciences Professionals

Kiyini Joseph Balamazze is an aerospace engineering student at the Politehnica University of Bucharest who is also studying computer science at the University of the People. He has past telecom and computer engineering qualifications and has worked in numerous telecom roles. He has made presentations, on fuel-efficient hybrid propulsion systems that reduce carbon emissions and mitigate pollution and their application to future industry design.

He is passionate about non-space-faring countries' contribution to scientific usage and exploration of space, and leveraging space sciences beyond agriculture, weather, and communication systems. He seeks to motivate, spark interest and collaboration among youth in space sciences. He is working on a policy paper to set up the Uganda national aerospace agency and the introduction of earth and space sciences into the national curriculum for higher learning at local universities through aerospace and astronautical engineering departments.

Joseph is the current co-representative for Uganda (Oct 2019- July 2021) with Mr. David Kasibante (Oct 2020- July 2022) - at the Space Generation Advisory Council. In his role, as the national point of contact, he seeks to spark youth interest in space sciences and accelerate collaboration among universities in East Africa and beyond by motivating and challenging youth to work together on space science platforms and projects. He is passionate about breaking barriers to access and study of space sciences by non-space-faring and emerging countries and to democratize space by leveraging the connection between work, the space industry academics and companies' leaders to university students in Uganda and the east Africa community.

He is also the founder of the Organization of African Space Science Professionals (OASSP). Focused on the advancement of African Space Sciences, technology, industry, education and research, the OASSP is a non-

report. She has published various journal and online articles on legal developments in the body of Space Law. She was recently selected for the Space Traffic Management Diverse Dozen inaugural cohort by the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics. In December of 2020 she received the Emerging African Space Leaders Award from the Space Generation Advisory Council for her contribution to the development of the African Space Industry.

She currently works as a Research Fellow with the Open Lunar Foundation on lunar governance for in-situ resource utilisation. She is also a Research Fellow with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa on the integration of geospatial systems and statistical information in the Southern African Development Community. She has also worked at Space in Africa as a Space Law & Policy Analyst. Her future interests lie in Trade, Investment, Sustainability and Development Studies, Human Rights and Space Law.

governmental, non-profit organization network dedicated to the cooperation, connection, unity and integration of - professionals of African origin through interregional or interpersonal cooperation and support on research, projects and events. The network consists of academia, young professionals, university students, on the African continent and all over the world in various industries from aviation, aerospace and astronomy, to Space Policy, Justice and Law Reform, Engineering, Computer Science, Manufacturing, Medicine, Academia, Business and Finance.

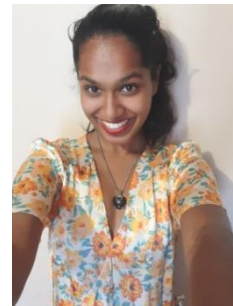


**Dr. Peeramed Chodkaveekityada**

Thailand

Affiliation: King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang

I am a lecturer at KMITL, Thailand. My interests are about space communication and space technology.



**Paayal (Poppy) Gounder**

Australia

Affiliation: Sonic Horizons

I am the Head of education and research scientist at Sonic Horizons. We aim to break barriers in the STEAM field, such as the gender disparities and accessibility issues. Our outreach seeks to inspire young students and create a favourable outcome in the future STEAM workforce.



**Gasiza Deborah Grace**

Rwanda

Affiliation: Rwanda Space Agency

I am a satellite communication specialist in Rwanda Space Agency, I hold a bachelor degree in electronic and telecommunication engineer. Before I have worked with a telecom company called IHS towers. I have been trained by nihon university in Japan on nano-satellites.



**Luis Enrique Salaverria**

El Salvador

Affiliation: SV Aerospace

Aerospace engineer with 11+ years of experience in the industry. Main interests are launch vehicles and rocket propulsion systems. Working on the Torogoz Sounding Rocket Project to provide suborbital payload delivery.



**Kavimani D. Boopalan**

Malaysia

Affiliation: Micron Memory Penang

Pursued Bachelor's Degree in Applied Physics and been fascinated by space technologies and applications. Did technical internship role in Malaysian based new-space start-up company/GLXP participant team - Independence-X Aerospace (IDX) in 2017 for 7 months to feed my passion and now a Failure Analysis Engineer in Micron Technologies based in Penang, Malaysia. Other than that, participated in Asian Pacific Space Generation Workshop by Space Generation as ambassador in 2018-2019, and few more local space/astronomy related events. About my network, it's within space/astronomy enthusiasts I've worked with and spoke to in Malaysia, and a bit of Asia-Pacific region as well.



**Dr. Abhas Maskey**

Nepal

Affiliation: [madeinepal.space](http://madeinepal.space)

Has been directly involved in four different satellite (CubeSat) projects placing seven satellites in orbit. This also involved building and launching first satellite of Nepal, NepaliSat-1. Is interested in camera design for space applications, machine learning for image classification and is actively working towards educating next generation of Nepal through hands-on, educational satellites called CanSat since launching Nepal's first training in 2016.





**Marco Filipe Menezes Romero**

Angola

Affiliation: Angolan Space Program

After 6 years at Military School, Marco Romero began his career in Aeronautical Engineering at the Angolan Air Force, after finishing his course at the Portuguese Air Force Academy. Served Angola as the responsible for the Hydraulic Systems of the Aeronautical Technical Maintenance Brigade of Armaments and Technique Direction of Angolan Airforce and support the development and creation of the Non-Destructive Testing, Avionics and Condition Assessment Laboratory in the National Air Force.

After that, he expanded his career to the Angolan Space Program as specialist in Ballistic Navigation and Support for Satellite Operation at the Funda's mission and control Centre, Certified by the RKK Energia in Russia.

His first Steps in Space Mission and Operation and Understanding Space where given by Teaching Science and Technology Inc (TSTI) form the United States.

Since 2017 at the Angolan Office for Space Affairs (GGPEN), had the opportunity participated on the construction of the 1st Angolan Satellite, worked on the Space Application and Services section of the space science and applied research Department changing after to serve Project Management Department of GGPEN.

With the expansion of the Angolan Space Program he solidified his background at Airbus space academy in 2019 obtain General Knowledge on Telecommunication Satellites. In parallel with the operational space activates he supported development of a Space Education and Outreach Program in Angola that was expanded trough Africa through videos and comic Books, Pico Satellites, STEAM where we can Highlight the 3 Editions of the Space Education Comic Book "Kids and Satellites".

Recently completed the Step up on the Career as Space System engineer in the Advanced Master of ISAE Supaero going further by integrating the European Space Agency Master of Science, Post-Graduation on Human and Robotic Space Exploration and Development Systems (SEEDS) Program a collaboration of 3 European Higher Education Institutions located in 3 different countries, namely Politecnico di Torino in Italy, InstitutSupérieur de l'Aéronautique et de l'Espace (ISAE-Supaero) in France, and the University of Leicester in the UK.

Working now at Airbus Defence (at the Space Academy), as an



**Alimamy Lewis Seray Conteh**

Sierra Leone

Affiliation: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Development Society (STEAD Society)

Alimamy Lewis SerayConteh is a final year student pursuing a five-year Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering Degree at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. While in university, he currently serves as the National Point of Contact for Sierra Leone at the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) in support of the United Nations Program on Space Applications, National Outreach Coordinator for Sierra Leone at the Office of Astronomy Outreach, International Astronomical Union and also the co-founder and the Executive Director of STEAD Society. Besides, he was African Union Commission Youth Scholarship award for the 8th The African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology. He has a strong conviction that we all have our part to play for the development of the African continent and chooses to invest in the promotion of space issues and innovation via space technologies in Africa. He has worked extensively with STEM enthusiasts around the world to help raise the awareness in space science and astronomy inSierra Leone and also introduce Space Science and Astronomy program in his university. He recently organized the Space week activity which is actually the first-ever space activity in Sierra Leone, by coming together to interact and proffer solutions on how we can collectively inspire and stimulate interest in Space Science and STEM. He also organized a space workshop with Open Cosmos UK on Space Mission Design and Analysis and he is the PR and Comms team member for the 4th African Space Generation Workshop in Ghana. Through this platform he's pioneering a strong group to promote and disseminate the benefits of satellite communications and technology to make Sierra Leone one of the African countries that will popularize the technology and use it in all facets of their development.

intern, on the Study of the utility of Small satellite for Capacity Building specifically studying “the path from CanSat to Space System Engineering in Africa”. Complementary to this internship started an observation Mission at the French Aerospace Valley to explore NanoStar, UFO, Gallatea European programs learn and develop a strategy to implement a Sustainable New space Ecosystem in Africa countries regardless their Space development Stage.

Strongly inspired by the benefits of the human and robotic exploration of the solar system and by STEAM education Marco believes that these catalyse innovation, this leads him to create several hackathons, conferences, Incubations, Challenges, studies, projects and other activities in Angola and joined similar activities in other countries.

Marco is the Responsible of the Project Humbisat, a capacity building and 3Stage development of Small Satellites academic and operational capabilities (for Earth and Deep Space Exploration mission) that integrate all the African States regardless their background on Space Domain.



**Tandin Wangchuk**

**Bhutan**

Affiliation: College of Science and Technology, Royal University of Bhutan

Currently responsible for smooth running of the IT programme at CST.



**Matias Francisco Campos**

**Ecuador**

Affiliation: Sideralis Foundation

Scientific Program Director at Sideralis, connections with the Ecuadorian Civilian Space Agency (EXA) and local space Startups.



**Nevena Jeftić**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Affiliation: CSPD - Committee for Space Programme Development - BiH

Master of Science in Postal Traffic and Telecommunications.



**Maheen Parbhoo**

**South Africa**

Affiliation: Space Generation Advisory Council South Africa

I am a graduate student and researcher at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg South Africa. My research involves testing a proof of concept electric micropropulsion system for potential use small satellites.



**Jan Spratek**

**Czech Republic**

Affiliation: Planetum - Hvezdarna a planetarium hl. m. Prahy

Science and cosmonautics popularizer, former educator at ESA Education Office for the Czech Republic, current programme department worker at the czechs largest planetarium and observatory.



**Solomon Kwaku Appekey**

**Ghana**

Affiliation: X Space Solutions

A passionate young Astronomer. Has a lot of experience in teaching Physics, Space Science - Astronomy, Electronics and Programming. I believe strongly that Space Science is the key to finding answers to the mysteries of the universe and this in turn will help develop and advance life on our home planet.



**Vedenkin Nikolay**

Russia

Affiliation: FUND CASSIOPEIA

Visionary Operations Executive with solid experience in managing of all levels of multiple projects including budgeting and administration. Director of Projects with cross-cultural team management skills. High-energy, results-oriented leader with an entrepreneurial attitude. Senior Researcher with deep analysis of innovation products for aerospace and civilian industry. President of Fund of Engineering Supporting.



**Milan Igić**

Montenegro and North Macedonia

Affiliation: CSPD - Committee for Space Programme Development– MNE& MKD

Milan Igić is a Civil Engineer with a high interest in Space applications and technologies. He is involved in development of the "System of Water Quality Management via Satellites and Early Warning System development" (WQM System) in the Danube river basin with 8 years of experience.



**Ezequiel Molina**

Argentina

Affiliation: Universidad Nacional de Córdoba

Currently on a 1 year mission on Antarctica at the permanent Argentine base Belgrano 2.



**Ana Alesandru**

Romania and Bulgaria

Affiliation: CSPD - Committee for Space Programme Development

More than a decade of experience in promoting Space Engineering at all levels of education in several countries (Romania, Moldova, Serbia). Author of a children's training kits that primarily concerns small rockets and simple electronics. During studies, an active member of the robotics club within the faculty and participant in several international competitions. Space passionist, astronomer and programmer.

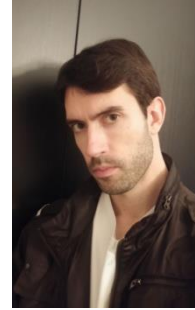


**Dr. Kanapathy Gopalakrishnan**

India

Affiliation: New Horizon College of Engineering (NHCE); ITCA; IEI; UNISEC India

WCRC POC from the founding country: INDIA



**Dušan Radosavljević**

Serbia

Affiliation: CSPD - Committee for Space Programme Development

WCRC POC from the founding country: SERBIA



**Dr. Samer Lahouar**

Tunisia

Affiliation: Center for Research in Microelectronics and Nanotechnology (CRMN)

WCRC POC from the founding country: TUNISIA



**Yari Bussi**

Italy

Affiliation: University of Brescia Student Branch of IEEE

WCRC POC from the founding country: ITALY

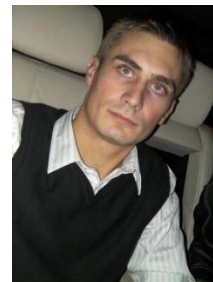


**Jorge Bordalo Monteiro**

Portugal

Affiliation: SPACEWAY LDA.

WCRC POC from the founding country: PORTUGAL



**Tihomir Zaric**

Canada

Affiliation: Canada Branch of Committee for Space Programme Development

WCRC POC from the founding country: CANADA



**Zaid Sanchez Escate**

Peru

Affiliation: AIDA - Asociación de Investigación y Desarrollo Aeroespacial

WCRC POC from the founding country: PERU



**Dr. Andrés Gschwindt**

Hungary

Affiliation: Budapest University of Technology and Economics

Head of the Space Research Group of TUB 1970- 2012. Achievements: different communication and telemetry subsystems for 12 satellites and for the VEGA deep-space probe (Halley's Comet investigation in 1986). Project manager of the first Hungarian satellite Masat-1 including ground and space segments and organising the sponsoring of the project working together with university students. Cooperation with similar groups in Poland, Germany, Russia, Czech Republic, Austria, Israel and England. Nowadays project manager of the development of three pocket cube sized small satellites SMOG-P, SMOG-1 ATL-1 and their ground station dealing with the space based observation of the manmade electrosmog. Two of them went up in December 2019 finishing their work with success. They fired in October 2020.



**Barnabas Mawukley Nomo**

Ghana

Affiliation: Academic City University College

I am Barnabas, a Windows and Web developer from Koforidua, Ghana. I am passionate about development, interaction, and effecting change through STEM. I have a deep passion for teaching, and building arduino-powered maker projects mostly targeted at agricultural applications. When I'm not coding or



**Diego Andrés Silva Vera**

Bolivia

Affiliation: Instituto Nacional de Aviación Civil

Diego has studied Aeronautics at San Andrés Major University. Besides that, he studied Air traffic Control at Civil Aviation National Institute. Along his career, he has gotten an exchange scholarship to study Aerospace Engineering at Federal University of Santa Maria in Rio

hacking together independent projects, you can usually find me working for Emerging Leaders in Technology and Engineering (ELiTE), the US based non-profit that first introduced me to engineering. At ELiTE, we use Raspberry Pi laptops to assemble portable computer labs, bringing computer science and open source software to communities that can benefit most from this developer community.

Grande Do Sul, Brasil.

Diego got opportunities to apply and get internships, jobs and practices in the aviation field. He already has experience in Aircraft Maintenance, Air navigation and the provision of services to Air navigation such as Meteorology, Communications and Air Traffic Services.

Responsible, proactive and resilient are some words that describe Diego because he always tries to help his community, specially young people.