

## First International Convention of Technologies of the Frontier

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Welcome to all of you attending this important First International Convention of Technologies of the Frontier Conference. I'm David Livingston, founder and host of The Space Show and it is an honor for me to be able to address you today. Congratulations to Adriano and all of you for working on this conference and making it the success that I am sure it is. I wish I could have been with all of you in person at the Castle today, I regret that my schedule and circumstances prevented me from being there, but while this short message is not my preferred way of speaking with you, at least I can offer you a few perspectives on becoming space-faring, all of which are based on my almost five years of evolving as host of The Space Show.

**Human development in space is crucial, not so much for science (yes, it is important for science but not crucial), but for our spirit, for the survival of mankind's spirit.** Humanity's spirit. All humanity. The humanity of those barely able to live in places such as Rwanda and just as important, the humanity for those living on Fifth Ave. in New York City or along the Champs Elise in Paris.

While I firmly believe it is our humanity, our spirit, that is crucial, that is urgent and at a crisis point, I also know that clearly there are challenges ahead for developing the human presence in space. Real challenges, hard challenges. Challenges that include but are not limited to:

1. Engineering issues
2. Technology advancement
3. Financial and investment issues
4. Economic and labor issues
5. Policy, government, and political issues.
6. Education issues.
7. Issues about how we communicate about space to the public and among ourselves.

But I contend that these challenges, as real and as hard as they are, can be overcome in time, through realism, through grounded methodologies on how to move forward, by proven methods of problem solving and baby steps or taking the next step, or by natural evolution to the next level. Our imagination and dreams are plentiful, we are not short of them. But it does seem we are short of connecting our imagination and dreams with realistic methodologies but this is nothing more than another challenge. None of this rises to the level of crisis. Its problem solving.

I want to very briefly discuss the crisis I mentioned above. It is the crisis of the human spirit that I believe IS a crisis across our planet, across Earth. Not only are people struggling to survive, but we are struggling for our identity and certainly for our humanity towards each other and within ourselves. **Space, with its proven track record, allows humanity – and our spirit – to flourish.** To be at its best. To serve all mankind, not just

those in the space faring countries or with the business that can successfully operate in space or manage a space business venture.

My friends, our human spirit is at risk of being crushed, of being trivialized, of being minimized or made irrelevant in the face of technology, advancements, the gadgets we all love, and the governments we either love, hate, or tolerate. The next iPod for example or the faster chip or the next generation internet protocol. Or even the next medical advancement. All of which are welcome and encouraged but they are not a replacement for our humanity, our spirit.

As this conference explores these issues and more, I urge all of us to be in touch with why we really do this space thing and care so much about it. Sure, want to make money. Sure, we want to create jobs. Sure, we want to go to zero g, have a good time, visit the Moon, even go to Mars and check it out, and certainly to answer questions at an almost unending pace. But really, while what I have just said is important, its not the core. At least I don't believe it's the core. The core is our thirst, and intuitive understanding that we are as a species, as a people, as a collective conscious force, we are at risk and damn it, we know, we just know, like our cells know how to do the metabolic thing to keep us alive, we just know that space is the path we must pursue for our future. Yes, maybe our individual future, but here I mean our future as a people, as a planet with life on it, as a people that endlessly know we have humanity and spirit and want it to flourish around the world, across borders, and right through political systems regardless of their quality, nature, or stench.

I have come to learn this and more from almost five years of doing The Space Show. Many of you knew me way back when as I just started my doctoral studies and dissertation. You heard me speak about venture capital, about financing space ventures, then about ethics and you have heard or read my Code of Ethics for Off-Earth Business. Many of you at this conference have been guests on The Space Show and will be again. Patrick was my first guest, and my milestone guest each year thereafter. Sure, we talk space tourism, we talk economics. Steven Wolfe talks with me about our spiritual connection to space, Adriano about similar issues, Jim Benson about his great company, Space-Dev and the accomplishment both he and his company have managed and believe me, they are formidable. But I know there is more to each and every one of you than the subjects we talk about, than the papers you write and publish, than the businesses you manage and run so well. I know your spirit, your humanity, that which we don't talk about it. Its there, it is a guiding force for your stellar accomplishments. And its within every one of you here at this conference or you would not be here.

I believe the only way to head off the crisis we face for our planet, for humanity, for pushing forward in space, the only way, is that we surface with our humanity for space, for its power, for its global appeal and we lead with it. We do what our leaders, our politicians, and policy makers, and governments don't want us to do. We show the world that space is the path to what we all want on this planet, to what this conference is addressing so well. We make sure that the crisis we avert, the crisis we overcome, the crisis we resolve is the looming crisis of seeing our humanity, our spirit, disappear. And this conference can help us find our way.

I so very much wish I could have been with all of you in person, to say hello to very good friends, to meet new friends, and to share with you all ideas , theories, and certainly action plans.

Adriano, what a great job in putting this conference together and thanks to you and all of you for making it possible.

Thank you for letting me give you this brief message. And I want to make a special thanks to Richard and David at the University of North Dakota audio/media department for helping me to record this message and get it to you in Italy. I could not have done it without their support and help so David and Richard, thanks.

Everyone, have a great conference.