

The Institute of Communication Networks and Satellite Communication invites you to the
Guest Lecture

“Space Sweden North - Space Activities in the North of Europe”

by Prof. René Laufer

Tuesday, October 28, 2025, time: 10:00

Seminarraum: IDEG134, Inffeldgasse 16c, 8010 Graz



Credit: ESA, Space Campus in Kiruna

Abstract

Locations like Kiruna, Andoya, Sodankylä as well as names like Esrange, Swedish Space Corporation, EISCAT, IRF, and Space Campus appear more and more often in articles and news items related to Europe's space activities. What happens in the most Northern part of Europe regarding space science and space engineering and why do these thinly populated regions hold such potential for the space sector? Who are the space actors and why is it worth to take a closer look towards the North - not only for to auroras, midnight sun, and long winters with lots of snow?

Biography

René Laufer is chair professor and head of space systems at Luleå University of Technology (LTU) at the Kiruna Space Campus, Sweden. He previously was associate professor and led the space science lab at Baylor University's Center for Astrophysics, Space Physics, and Engineering Research (CASPER) in Texas, USA, after working as scientific staff member at the Institute of Space Systems of the University of Stuttgart, and before as research engineer at the DLR-Institute of Planetary Exploration in Berlin. He studied aerospace engineering at the Technical University of Berlin and obtained his PhD related to lunar exploration at the University of Stuttgart. He is a honorary associate professor at the SpaceLab at the University of Cape Town, South Africa and has taught as a visiting lecturer in Argentina, Estonia, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Spain, and the USA. His research interests focus on small satellites, space environmental testing, payloads and mission design.