

**School of Mathematical and Geospatial Sciences
School Seminar**

**Australia's Role in Space: Picking up the Ball
Brett Biddington
Biddington Research Pty Ltd**

2009 represents a tipping point in Australia's involvement with and commitment to space. The Australian Government announced plans to acquire a Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite in the Defence White Paper in order to contribute more effectively to the US alliance. The White Paper also announced an intention by Defence to develop a cadre of space experts and it further stated that Space Situational Awareness (SSA), understanding where objects are in space, was a 'priority' for Australia.

The Government announced the establishment of a Space Policy Unit, within the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR), and also created the Australian Space Research Program (ASRP) – \$40m to be spent over four years to stimulate space education and research. Perhaps most importantly, the Government announced plans to develop a national space policy.

Australian society, the economy and the nation's security are heavily reliant on satellites for precision timing and navigation (PNT), communications and Earth observations. These dependencies and the associated vulnerabilities are not well understood in government, industry or society more generally. Australia is poised to adopt a more active role in international space diplomacy, which can only occur if there is increased, explicit, investment in space activities.

My talk will discuss these developments and make some suggestions about what an Australian national space policy, might, should and must contain.

Date: 15 October 2010, Friday

Time: 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Venue: Access Grid Room, 8.9.64-66

Brett Biddington



Brett Biddington is a consultant to government and the private sector. He provides advice on space matters and has more general interests in community resilience and risk management, notably in the electronic and information domains. He also addresses broader questions of institutional behaviour including leadership, strategy, culture, and organisational design against backgrounds of uncertainty and change.

Between 2002 and 2009 Brett was a member of Cisco Systems' global space team performing a very long term market creation role. The team's principal focus was to encourage all involved in space activities to move to open data and communications standards and to take advantage of internet technologies wherever possible. The team was responsible for developing the Internet Router In Space (IRIS) program and a software router was launch on a commercial satellite, as a secondary payload, in November 2009.

Brett chairs the Australian Space Industry Chamber of Commerce. He also sits on several boards and advisory committees. These include:

- Australian Space Industry Innovation Council
- The Kokoda Foundation
- Giant Magellan Telescope Project Oversight Committee
- Advisory Board of the Institute for Telecommunications Research at the University of South Australia.

From 2004 until recently, Brett was closely associated with the Square Kilometre Array radio telescope project and with the governance of Australia's current suite of radio telescopes. In 2002 he left the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) on completion of almost 23 years of service. He was an intelligence and security specialist before moving into the capability development arena where he sponsored a wide range of command and control, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and electronic warfare projects. These included the Jindalee Over the Horizon Radar project and a number of classified and unclassified space initiatives. He also sponsored a substantial portfolio of research within the Defence Science and Technology Organisation. Recently, he completed a second report for the Kokoda Foundation about space policy options for Australia.

Brett graduated from LaTrobe University Melbourne in 1974 with a BA(Hons) degree, majoring in politics. He was a member of the Australian Diplomatic Service and a lecturer in politics and public administration at the Canberra College of Advanced Education before joining the RAAF.