



**VSSEC  
ENGINEERING  
AND SCIENCE  
CAREERS EXPO**



As part of National Science Week, VSSEC will host a **FREE** Engineering and Science Careers Expo. This event is supported by Engineers Australia National Committee for Space Engineering and aims to showcase the diverse range of study and career paths available across a broad range of fields. This event brings together university, TAFE and industry representatives to help inspire our future engineers and scientists and expose them to the wide range of options available.

Students will have the opportunity to explore interactive displays. Participants include Victoria University, Monash, Deakin, University of Melbourne, RMIT, Swinburne, Tall Poppies, Engineers Australia, Varian Instruments, National Measurement Institute and many more. In the theatre, young engineers and scientists will discuss their work and talk about their experiences of studying and working in a scientific field.

**When:** Thursday 20th August 2008

**Time:** 1:00 – 5:00pm

**Where:** Victorian Space Science Education Centre @ Strathmore Secondary College  
400 Pascoe Vale Rd, Strathmore

**Target audience:** Yr 10-12 students, parents, teachers, general public

For more information and bookings please visit [www.vssec.vic.edu.au](http://www.vssec.vic.edu.au)

## THE AUSTRALIAN SPACE RESEARCH PROGRAM - PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSIONS

The Australian Government recently announced a new initiative to support space research, innovation and skills development. The Australian Space Research Program will provide \$40 million over four years through two streams of competitive grants:

- Space Education and Development Grants of up to \$1 million to support secondary and tertiary student space projects
- Space Science and Innovation Grants of up to \$5 million will support eligible consortia for collaborative space research and development projects

The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research is seeking ideas and insights from stakeholders to help shape the development of the grant programs. A discussion paper is available at [www.space.gov.au](http://www.space.gov.au).

Consultation sessions will be held in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra from 22 to 29 June 2009. **The Melbourne session will be held at VSSEC on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 9:00am.** A list of times and venues for other states is available on the website. To register your interest please email [space@innovation.gov.au](mailto:space@innovation.gov.au).

## 9<sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN SPACE SCIENCE CONFERENCE



The 9<sup>th</sup> ASSC will be held in Sydney 28<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009. The ASSC brings together space scientists, engineers, educators, industry and government to discuss the recent activity in the Australian space industry.

For abstract and paper guidelines and online submission visit [www.assc.nssa.com.au](http://www.assc.nssa.com.au)

**Key Dates:**

- Closing date for abstracts 12th July 2009
- Registration opens 12th July 2009
- Acceptance of abstracts 26th July 2009

## MARS INSTITUTE CHAIRMAN, DR PASCAL LEE VISITS VSSEC

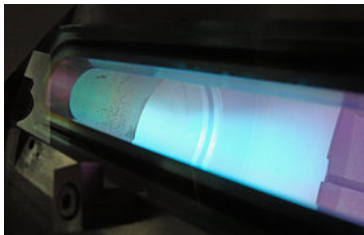


During his tour of Australia as the AIAA Distinguished Lecturer for 2009, Dr Pascal Lee visited VSSEC. Dr Lee is the Chairman of the Mars Institute, a planetary scientist with the SETI Institute, and the Director of the Haughton-Mars Project.

During his visit to VSSEC Dr Lee explored the simulated Mars surface and explained his own analogue research at Haughton crater in Canada. Dr Lee also discussed his recent field tests of NASA's new Lunar Electric Rover and space suits. For more information about Dr Lee's work and the Haughton project visit [www.marsonearth.org](http://www.marsonearth.org)

## AUSTRALIAN SPACE PROPULSION SYSTEM TO BE LAUNCHED WITHIN FOUR YEARS

A revolutionary propulsion system developed by Australian National University (ANU) will be the first of its kind to be tested in space. The new type of rocket engine, called a plasma thruster, is being modified for launch within the next four years as part of a prototype satellite.



A collaborative partnership between the ANU's Space Plasma Power and Propulsion group; European aerospace company EADS-Astrium, and the University of Surrey was formed in March this year to develop the new plasma thruster prototype. It has been seven years since Australian hardware has been sent into space, and this will be the first time a satellite with a plasma engine has been tested in space.

For more details about the plasma thruster visit <http://prl.anu.edu.au/SP3/research/HDLT>. For other research being conducted by the Space Plasma, Power & Propulsion Group (SP3) at ANU visit <http://prl.anu.edu.au/SP3/research/>

## NASA RESOURCES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS



*The Space Place* <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov> is NASA's award-winning Web site for kids. It

presents the Space Place cartoon kids hosting their own talk show "live" from the Space Place Clubhouse. Their guests are NASA scientists and engineers. The goal of "Space Place Live!" is to introduce kids to the human, down-to-Earth side of real scientists and engineers working in the space program. Each guest is presented as a passionate and accomplished role model for children interested in science or engineering.

## NEW BOOK: SPACE TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMAN SOCIETY AND EARTH



When discussing the advancement of space science and space technology, most people instinctively think about deep space flights, lunar stations, and thrilling outer space adventures, but the majority of the human technology in space, consists of interconnected satellites that point towards Earth and are used to provide services such as GPS.

This book, published by Springer, describes some of the most important applications, along with the space infrastructure upgrades being implemented to support them. It also provides a comprehensive review of how space technology can be used to resolve fundamental environmental, technological, and humanitarian challenges that we are experiencing on our planet. This book includes a chapter by VSSEC staff member, Naomi Mathers, on the potential for inflatable antennas to provide low-cost, portable, direct satellite communication.

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