

Leading NASA astronaut joins Myriota

SPACE INDUSTRY

Former Space Shuttle commander Pamela Melroy has joined the board of Australian satellite communications company Myriota as it moves towards its goal of creating a constellation of 50 nano-satellites.



Former NASA astronaut Pamela Melroy has joined the board of South Australian company Myriota.

Today's announcement comes just three weeks after Myriota announced the first of a string of commercial products that will utilise its low-cost earth-to-satellite transmission technology.

Melroy, a former NASA astronaut and ex-DARPA Deputy Director of the Tactical Technology Office, joins Myriota's board as a non-executive director.

Existing members of Myriota's board include Chairman Peter Mabson, who is also President of Canadian company ExactEarth Ltd; an early international investor into Myriota, which is based in Adelaide, South Australia.

"As one of only two women to ever command a space shuttle, Pam is used to breaking new ground in space exploration," CEO and co-founder of Myriota Dr Alex Grant said.

"We're thrilled to have her join our team at a time when the commercialisation of space is opening up new avenues for entrepreneurial businesses, and enabling us to lower the cost of communication and tracking of remotely located sensors worldwide."

Melroy brings expertise in the global space industry, having spent more than 30 years at the forefront of space exploration, including as a shuttle pilot and commander, as well as thousands of hours logged working on multiple space shuttle missions. She began her career as a pilot in the United States Air Force, before joining NASA and becoming the second woman to command a NASA space shuttle mission.

Opportunities in space (30)



Following a distinguished career at NASA, Melroy held a number of senior roles in private industry and public administration including at the FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation, and DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency). She is currently Director of Space Technology and Policy for Adelaide-based professional services firm Nova Systems, a position she has held since 2017.

Melroy said she was excited to be joining Myriota as it ramps up its efforts to apply space technologies to solve global problems.

"The industrialisation of space is improving the world's ability to monitor and communicate globally, and is having real world benefits on industries including agriculture and logistics," she said.

"Myriota is a serious player in the diverse and growing global space ecosystem, and I'm excited to be joining its board at a time when the maturity of space as a commercial industry is growing."

Myriota has been scaling up since it was spun out of the University of South Australia in 2015 and last year raised \$15 million through a Series A funding round, with Boeing HorizonX Ventures among the contributors.



Myriota CEO Dr Alex Grant.

The South Australian company launched its next generation of technology on Spaceflight's SmallSat Express mission aboard Falcon 9 late last year and this month announced a partnership with fellow Australian business Davey Water

Products to add its IoT connectivity to Davey's TankSense product range, enabling farmers to receive water level data direct to their mobile phones.

Myriota is based at Lot Fourteen, an innovation precinct in the CBD of Adelaide that will also host the Australian Space Agency from July, and is part of a growing ecosystem of more than 80 companies working in the space industry in South Australia.

Managing Director of Boeing HorizonX Ventures Brian D Schettler said Melroy's world-leading space experience made her "the perfect person to help Myriota navigate the next phase of its global expansion".

"Myriota is a company poised to make a big impact on the global IoT industry, and the appointment of Pam Melroy to its board adds a new dimension," he said.



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