



ASX's 6TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ADDRESSES "THE GLOBAL SPACE AGE"

Featured Speakers include Anousheh Ansari (First Female Private Space Explorer), Taryn Tomlinson (Canadian Space Agency), and Ying Du (China Academy of Space Technology)

January 16, 2009 – The Astronomy & Space Exploration Society (ASX) at the University of Toronto is pleased to announce its **6th annual "Expanding Canada's Frontiers" Symposium**. This year's symposium features the organization's most prestigious line-up of speakers and world leaders in the space industry to date. The event will take place on **Friday, January 23, 2009 at Convocation Hall, University of Toronto** (31 King's College Cir), Ontario, Canada. **Doors open at 6:00 PM; event starts at 7:00 PM; reception is at 10:00 PM.**

ASX's 6th annual Symposium continues the momentum provided by Toronto's International Year of Astronomy (IYA) kickoff event on January 10, 2009. This year's Symposium, entitled "The Global Space Age", supports the IYA's theme of International co-operation. Speakers include Anousheh Ansari, First Female Private Space Explorer; Taryn Tomlinson, Robotics Systems Engineer with the Canadian Space Agency (CSA); and Ying Du, Senior Engineer with China Academy of Space Technology (CAST). York University's Professor Paul Delaney, of the Department of Physics and Astronomy will function as MC. A reception following the talks will conclude the program.

Anousheh Ansari captured headlines around the world and earned a place in history as the first female (and fourth) private space explorer in 2006, and as the first astronaut of Iranian descent. Ms. Ansari is currently Chairman and CEO of Prodea Systems, Inc. She and her family provided title sponsorship for the \$10 million Ansari X Prize. Her talk highlights her journey to the International Space Station and her vision for privatization of space. "I am very excited to be part of the ASX Symposium on Expanding Frontiers. This is precisely the type of program that inspires young minds to imagine possibilities of a peaceful future for a space faring human race," said Anousheh Ansari. "Space is the key to a better future for us here on earth and in the universe and we need to educate the public about its importance. ASX is a great organization that informs the public about all aspects of humanity's next frontier," added Ansari.

Taryn Tomlinson of CSA is a member of the engineering team who successfully saw Dextre, the Canadian Robot, reach its new home in space last year. Her experience in developing space systems and technologies includes working closely with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), as well as working in the German Space Operations Center. In her talk titled "Collaboration in Space", Taryn Tomlinson addresses the Canadarm2 and "the incredible teamwork and international co-operation that is required for the advancement of space knowledge and exploration," she explains. Tomlinson added: "As nations around the world celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the International Space Station, [we have] made tremendous technological achievements. We have overcome differences in language, geography

and engineering philosophy to build an extraordinary platform for scientific research and space exploration.”

Ying Du has eight years of experience working on spacecraft system engineering at CAST, in Beijing, China. Since 2004, she has been actively involved with the development, launch and orbit control of Chang'e One Lunar Orbiter, which finished its first year's work perfectly. Ms. Du is currently working on the development of Chang'e Two Lunar Orbiter, which is scheduled to be launched before 2011. Ying Du commented: “The development in space technology has great influence on human civilization, and is absorbing more and more attention of the public. As an engineer engaged in spacecraft design, I hope more advanced spacecrafts can be manufactured by means of our endeavor to explore the immense and mysterious space.”

ASX's 6th annual Symposium brings together distinguished speakers, whose combined experience involves many space agencies around the globe – Canada, US, Europe, Russia, China, and Japan. “We are privileged to feature such exceptional and inspiring women. Their experiences not only represent a multitude of space programs around the globe but also various types of programs – collaborative, privatized and national projects,” said Farnaz Ghadaki, President of ASX.

Sponsors of ASX's 2009 Symposium include: TD Insurance, University of Toronto's Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Dunlap Institute for Astronomy & Astrophysics, U of T's SKULE™ Engineering Society, MDA, Com-Dev, UTIAS, and U of T's Physics Department. Admission is free for students (with ID), and \$20 for the public (\$25 at the door). To obtain tickets and reserve seats, see: <http://asx.sa.utoronto.ca/>. To receive automatic news about this and other ASX events, send an email to space.society@utoronto.ca with the subject line "Newsletter Sign-Up".

About ASX

The Astronomy & Space Exploration Society (ASX) is a non-profit organization run by the University of Toronto space community, in Ontario, Canada. ASX's purpose is to educate, excite, and inspire students, professionals, and the general public about astronomy and space. Since its inception in 2003, ASX has rapidly grown to over 1500 members, and has organized and hosted over 25 multi-disciplinary events, including its signature annual Symposium, panel discussions, and the 'Faces of Spaces' lecture series. With the support of its sponsors and partners, ASX has been able to attract 1500-2000 event attendees and reach out to several thousand students every year.

Important information for the media:

Speaker interviews may be granted for January 23, 2008, from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM.
For inquiries and to set up an appointment, please contact:

David Rajzman, Marketing Director, ASX
Phone: 416.844.1490
Email: space.society@utoronto.ca (with subject line “Symposium-Media”)