

Dr. Rick Fleeter

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is a professor of engineering at Brown University, Providence, RI, USA, and at La Sapienza Rome, Italy, where he served as a consultant to the head of the Italian Space Agency from 2008 through 2011. In 1988 he founded and was for 21 years President and CEO of the small satellite company AeroAstro (USA), during which time he also engineered patented and created the global emergency communications service now known as SPOT. He co-founded Encounter 2001 and created the International Small Satellite Organization (ISSO) and Space Horizons an annual conference on emerging space capabilities since 1996. Space Horizons is now an annual event at Brown drawing over 100 professionals and students from around the world.

Rick has been responsible for the development of over 25 successful miniature satellites ranging from 1 to 110 kg including Rhode Island and Brown's first satellite, the Equisat space optical beacon, which operated successfully on orbit for 987 days until its reentry into the atmosphere.

Rick was a partner in the database software startup Space-Point based in Rome and is the CEO of Extraterrestrial Essentials which provides consulting and engineering services in microspace. Rick served in 2021 as a reviewer of the MoonRanger micro lunar rover and performs other consulting for NASA programs. He has participated in site selection, survey and qualification of proposed launch facilities in Australia, and Malaysia and in considerations toward orbital insertion capability from previously suborbital facilities in the US and Europe. He also was part of the DARPA air launch evaluation team that ultimately helped create the Orbital Pegasus launch facility, which launched 2 AeroAstro Spacecraft, and he has hands on launching experience at Cape Canaveral and Edwards Air Force Bases.

Rick teaches space systems architecture at Brown, La Sapienza and in professional courses worldwide. At Brown he also teaches design for innovation and lean startup and is the faculty advisor of Brown Space Engineering, Brown's largest student club of the SBUDNIC 3U Cubesat, the Big IDEA lunar space suit NASA design challenge and the Venus Aero Vehicle solar powered Venus aircraft.

Rick has written the only two books dedicated to small satellite technology and management, Micro Space Craft and The Logic of Microspace. He has contributed microspace chapters to encyclopedias and textbooks including Space Mission Analysis and Design. He coauthored Management of Space Programs.

Rick earned PhD (1981) and AB (1976) degrees in engineering with undergraduate dual concentration in economics at Brown University and an MSc (1978) from Stanford University in Aerospace Engineering.. He has been a professor at Brown since 2002 and a visiting professor at La Sapienza since 2008. He has also taught at UCLA and Cal State Long Beach. Rick has also taught professional short courses in Microspace Engineering and in Management at space and defense agencies, universities and companies worldwide since 1995.

Holding an amateur radio license since 1963 (now K8VK), Rick began his career in microspace working with the Amateur Radio Satellite Organization, AMSAT US, in the 1970s where he held the position of Vice President, Engineering during the 1980s.

Expertise, interests and profile:

- Small Spacecraft Missions and Architecture
- Small Space System Development and Program Management
- Entrepreneurism in microspace and in general
- Design for innovation
- Bicycling, Swimming, Jazz and Classical Cello and Piano

Rick is married to Maria Esther Cecconi of Rome, Italy and lives in Charlestown, Rhode Island and Rome.

keywords: AeroAstro, Microspace, Small Satellites,