



## Media Release

### SERC appoints Deputy CEO

**\*For immediate release\***

The Space Environment Research Centre (SERC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr David Ball to the newly created position of Deputy CEO. With two decades of technical and commercial space sector experience from a service provider and an end-user perspective, David will support SERC operations and its mission to develop and commercialise technologies to reduce the threat to space-based infrastructure from space debris.

Reflecting on the global importance of access to space, David said “It is an exciting time to be joining SERC. Research is maturing well and commercial licences are already under negotiation. SERC is creating the tools needed to operate safely and effectively in space.”

Chair of the SERC Board, Professor Mary O’Kane AO, is pleased to welcome David to the SERC team.

“I look forward to working with David and welcoming him to SERC. David’s international satellite operator experience complements the existing skill set of management well. Having ready access to satellite operator networks will bring benefits to SERC in the future”.

SERC CEO, Dr Ben Greene, said David’s appointment is timely given SERC timetable of activities over the coming months. “David’s appointment coincides with SERC’s annual International Research Colloquium and provides the ideal opportunity to interact with SERC’s cohort of students and international researchers. Exposure to SERC research and researchers will provide an overview of SERC research programs and dramatically reduce the learning curve”.

SERC’s International Research Colloquium, to be held from 30 May – 2 June, is the premier event of the year for the Canberra based international research collaboration organisation. The Research Colloquium will bring together researchers, industry groups and space agencies to collaborate, share resources and enhance their research output, as they develop methods detect and track the growing collection of man-made space debris that is currently orbiting the earth; endangering vital space infrastructure.

#### ABOUT SERC

Based at Mount Stromlo Observatory in Canberra, SERC is an international research collaboration developing and commercialising technologies to reduce the threat to space-based infrastructure from space debris. SERC research participant organisations include the Australian National University, RMIT University, Electro Optic Space Systems, Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, Optus Satellite Systems and The National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (Japan).

Together these organisations lead the world in laser tracking of space debris, space situational awareness, adaptive optics and space debris mitigation research.

Funded through the Australian Government’s Cooperative Research Centres Programme, SERC research will more accurately predict the orbits of space debris to protect trillions of dollars’ worth of spacecraft from collisions and ultimately manoeuvre space debris using ground based lasers to avoid collisions in space.

[End]

**To arrange interviews or seek comments, please contact SERC offices:**

E: [info@serc.org.au](mailto:info@serc.org.au)

T: +61 2 6197 1057

W: [www.serc.org.au](http://www.serc.org.au)



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