

AURORA

AI-driven University Research for
Orbital Resilience and Autonomy



Fall 2026 Seminar Series

JPL

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Sept 29, 2026

USC Viterbi



Fall 2026 Seminar Series: “Customer Discovery!”

SEP 17 KICKOFF

What is AI in Space?

OCT 29 INFORMATION USAGE

NASA JSC Exploration Science, NODS

SEP 29 PROGRAMMING

NASA JPL Processing and AI

NOV 12 ROBOTICS

NASA JSC Software, Robotics and Simulation Division

OCT 6 STRUCTURES

NASA Langley Autonomous Integrated Systems
Research Branch

DEC 03 STUDENTS

Lightning talks + Spring 2027 projects preview

All will be on ZOOM and in SGM 226, 5:30-6:20PM

JPL Speakers

Over 30 years at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, David Henriquez have contributed to a broad portfolio of planetary, astrophysics, and Earth science missions, including Cassini, Spirit and Opportunity, Curiosity, Europa Clipper, and Psyche. His leadership experience includes managing a 154-person flight-electronics organization, leading delivery of spacecraft command and data handling systems, and managing multidisciplinary teams on next-generation avionics and computing technologies. His combination of technical depth, systems perspective, and organizational leadership has enabled him to lead teams in translating demanding mission objectives into integrated, verifiable, and flight-ready systems. He holds a MS and BS in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Southern California.



JPL Speakers

Marcel Llopis is the Group Supervisor of the Artificial Intelligence and Data Science Leadership Group at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). He leads efforts to bring artificial intelligence, modern software frameworks, and advanced AI computing into spaceflight systems. His work supports capabilities such as agentic spacecraft, onboard data processing, and automated science operations. He also works on improving how flight systems and subsystems are developed and validated with AI. Marcel previously served as Deputy Section Manager of the Flight Software and Avionics Systems Section and Assistant Section Manager of the Planning and Execution Systems Section. He has also held leadership roles in science planning software and in ground modeling and simulation across multiple missions. Before joining JPL, Marcel worked in medical imaging and in the semiconductor design industry. He holds a PhD, MS, and BS in Computer Science from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, an MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Irvine, and an MS in Engineering Management from Johns Hopkins University.



Questions to Ask our Speakers

Recall: NASA's working definition for AI

Systems that can perform complex tasks normally associated with human reasoning, decision-making, learning, perception, planning or physical action.

- 1 What do you think AI is?**
- 2 What Example of AI are you doing Today?**
- 3 What example projects would you propose for a class in 2027?**

Next Seminar: October 6th, NASA Langley

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**COME HELP DEFINE AI,
IN SPACE!**



Seminars • Micro-projects • Spring 2027 course • Hardware • Potential flight

TODAY'S ASK

Ask a question. Join a seminar. Formulate a micro-project. Develop a new skill.

What should AI in Space become?