



SMALL
SATELLITES
& SERVICES
INTERNATIONAL
FORUM

#SSSIF2024

keynote speaker

INTERVIEW

CARLOS GARCIA-GALAN

EUROPEAN SERVICE MODULE INTEGRATION MANAGER,
ORION PROGRAM GLENN RESEARCH CENTER, NASA



SSSIF INTERVIEWER

We are with Carlos Garcia-Galan, Head of the European Service Module (ESM) Integration Office of the Orion spacecraft at NASA Glenn Research Center. Hello Carlos, welcome and thank you very much for being with us.

CARLOS
GARCIA-GALAN

Hello, how are you? Thank you very much.

SSSIF

We look forward to hearing what you have to say in Malaga in a few weeks' time. What are your expectations for this year's congress, whose main theme is "Lunar and Cislunar Missions: Exploration and Business"?

CARLOS

The truth is that I am very interested in knowing the current state of the industry, especially in Europe. As you know, at NASA we are working hard on the Artemis project, which is international in nature. In addition, we are focusing on enhancing the commercial area, not only on governmental programmes with the agencies. On the other hand, I would like to meet the people involved in that area, and understand the skills and capabilities they have, and the offerings they present. I am also interested in the level of interest in participating in the Artemis programme.

SSSIF

As the head of the Orion European Service Module Integration Office at NASA's Glenn Research Center, what is the main goal you want to achieve by 2024? In 2023, your spacecraft circumnavigated the Moon for 26 days, what are your next steps?

CARLOS

In addition to human exploration, we are developing new technologies essential to our goal of moving towards Mars. I would like to share some of our goals, what we have achieved so far and our collaboration with a number of international companies and agencies, some of which will be present at the conference. Our strategy for getting to Mars involves using the Moon as a test and operational base. While we have sent robots to Mars, sending humans on missions that can last more than a year requires extensive testing, and the Moon is the perfect place to do this. There are aspects we have not yet developed, and the Moon will be crucial for fundamental testing before we make the leap to Mars. Reaching the Moon is not only a milestone after more than 50 years, it marks the beginning of a new era of space exploration as we seek knowledge and conduct tests necessary to prepare for the Mars mission. Thus, the Moon becomes the first critical step in our strategy to reach Mars.



#SSSIF2024

keynote speaker

SSSIF

The Spanish Space Agency, based in Seville, has ratified a bilateral agreement with NASA to promote its technological involvement in the Artemis Programme. How do you think an emerging Space Agency like the Spanish Space Agency can help NASA? Do you think it is important for countries like Spain to have their own Space Agency?

CARLOS

This Artemis project is of utmost importance to me for several reasons. First of all, considering the main goal of eventually reaching Mars, we understand that it will take quite a long time. We need to get this project out to the public, especially since it is a long-term effort, and we will require the support of both the public and political leaders. We are in the early stages of laying the necessary groundwork to reach Mars, and it is crucial that people know what is being done and how it will directly benefit them, even if they are not directly involved in the space programme. In addition, the internationalisation of this project is essential. It is no longer limited to the United States; it is a fully international effort that needs the backing of all countries and continents involved. Doing so in Europe is particularly important, as it is one of the key places where some of this work is being carried out.

Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, I see myself as someone who is driving and leading this project. Although I am deeply involved and I have a lot of responsibility, we recognise that the crucial next steps in getting us to Mars will be taken by younger generations in schools and universities around the world, not just in the United States. Given the unprecedented complexity of what we are attempting, we need the best of the best. Inspiring the brightest minds, regardless of their geographic location, is essential. We want them to understand that this is not just a project, but a unique opportunity to contribute to something extraordinary. For this reason, I spend significant time on outreach, explaining what we are doing to spark the interest and involvement of those who can be key to taking this ambitious project forward in the future.

SSSIF

Thank you very much for taking the time to speak with us. To conclude this interview, what will be the main points we will hear from you at the event?



#SSSIF2024

keynote speaker

CARLOS

I want to talk about what we are achieving in the Artemis Programme, as it marks the beginning of a new era in space exploration. This project is not only international, but encompasses several areas, such as robotics and human exploration, which is our main focus.

SSSIF

Carlos Garcia-Galan, Head of the European Service Module (ESM) Integration Office of the Orion spacecraft at NASA Glenn Research Center, thank you for sharing your time with us. I look forward to meeting you in person and hearing from you in Malaga in a few weeks' time. Thank you very much.

CARLOS

Thank you very much and see you there.