



SMALL  
SATELLITES  
& SERVICES  
INTERNATIONAL  
FORUM

## INTERVIEW



**#SSSIF2024**  
keynote speaker

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SSSIF INTERVIEWER

We are with Jordi Puig, professor at Cal Polytechnic State University. Welcome. Thank you for joining us.

JORDI PUIG-SUARI

Thank you very much.

SSSIF

Jordi is one of the main keynote speakers at the International Forum on Small Satellites and Services to be held in Malaga next February. What do you expect from this year's congress, whose main theme is "Lunar and Cislunar Missions: Exploration and Business"?

JORDI

The Congress is focused on beyond where we've been, we'll try to talk about the moon, other planets outside of Earth's orbit... And what I think is interesting is that the changes we've seen with the new spacecraft in what we call Low Low orbit, they haven't happened there yet. So how are we going to get there? How are we going to make the changes? Now that we've already experienced it in low orbits, maybe we can do it a little bit faster because we already have experience, and that's what it's going to be about.

SSSIF

Really interesting. May I ask you what will be the main reflections that we will hear from you at the event?

JORDI

I think it is key precisely that SSSIF this year is dedicated to precisely lunar exploration and cislunar navigation. Especially because it is the first step to go further. It is critical because, as everywhere, budgets are limited to most of the effort that is made in these orbits and in these places is scientific, and we must try to find ways to make the most of the euros we invest. So, we know how to do things more cheaply and more effectively, because we have done it in other orbits. But how do we encourage governments and space agencies to change the mentality a little bit and improve the system if they can.

So, I hope this congress will be great, as always. It is a very special place, to begin with because it is in Malaga and in February, and everybody wants to go because it is much better than being for example in the Netherlands and places like that... I think I have managed to find a group of people and an atmosphere in the Congress that is always very focused on small satellites, very focused on the future.



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keynote speaker

And maybe to participate with people who are not the big players yet, which is where we started. We started as a congress that was not a big player, and I think we have reached a point where it is already one of the most important congresses that are held every year. And people come to learn what is going to happen in a few years, not only to learn what is happening today. I think we always have an important vision of the future.

SSSIF

And now that you mention the Big Players of New Space, it is something that has been discussed for many years. I remember that since last year's edition of SSSIF space and space exploration is no longer understood without New Space. But it is also comforting to see how even from Malaga, from Spain, in this exploration the lunar navigation is key.

JORDI

Yes, but most of the missions to the Moon, or to Mars or to other not so traditional places have not yet arrived. With government investments for scientific missions, we have not yet made the change that has been made in other orbital levels, and it is normal because it is a smaller market, and it is more difficult. But I think we have learned enough to start trying to understand how to change it, and instead of what we have done with Space, we start to see what happens. Now we know that it does work, so we can go much faster, and we can, to some extent, push the agencies and the governments a little bit more to make changes.

SSSIF

To conclude, what do you think, Jordi, about the idea of making a commitment? What if in February, in Malaga, in the SSSIF, we look for ways of collaboration and Coworking so that we use it as an appointment for the agencies and the government?

JORDI

Of course, of course. That is what it is for, and I believe that we are going to do it. I believe that it will be fundamental, and I believe that there will be a change of mentality, since in each of the congresses there has already been a small change of mentality at various levels, so I believe that this one will not be otherwise.

SSSIF

Very interesting. As we have already said, Jordi Puig will be the main keynote speaker during the congress of the International Forum of Small Satellites and Services in Malaga. We are very excited and hope to meet him personally in Málaga.

JORDI

Thank you very much and see you there.