

## Ing. Gennaro RUSSO, PhD

He is presently senior manager for Space and Defense at DAC, the Campania Aerospace District. He is full member of the International Academy of Astronautics, participates in a number of technical committees of the International Astronautical Federation, and is co-founder and head of the Center for Near Space of the Italian Institute for the Future, committed to the development of the Expansion of Humanity in Space.

He co-founded Trans-Tech, an SME devoted to technology transfer and disruptive concepts design. He is co-conceiver and project manager of the HYPLANE project, a hypersonic suborbital spaceplane.

In 2013, he co-founded Space Renaissance Italia with the role of president covered up to May 2015. He was a director of CIRA, the Italian Aerospace Research Center, where he worked for about 25 years managing space related programs, projects and facilities, mostly devoted to space transportation and reentry. He led in particular the PRORA-USV program, playing the role of flight director of balloon-dropped transonic-supersonic flight tests. He was designer of the 70 Megawatt SCIROCCO Plasma Wind Tunnel for duplicating reentry aerothermodynamics conditions from low earth orbit.

At the beginning of his career, he worked for about ten years with the Microgravity Research Team led by Luigi G. Napolitano at University of Naples, designing, preparing and analyzing experiments executed inside the Spacelab of the European Space Agency (ESA) on board the Space Shuttle, including the related astronauts training.

Graduated cum laude at University Federico II of Naples in Aeronautical Engineering, he holds a Doctoral Degree in Aerospace Engineering obtained at University Sapienza of Rome. He was the first PhD in Italy and the first in Europe to discuss a thesis on microgravity.

He is author of more than 150 papers presented at national and international congresses and/or published in international scientific journals.