

Dr. Peter Schemmel

Dr. Peter Schemmel is a distinguished expert in space communication and an influential advocate for the commercialization of space communication services. With several years of experience in academia and government, he has played a pivotal role in advancing the frontiers of communication technology for space exploration.

Dr. Schemmel holds a Ph.D. in Astronomy and Astrophysics from the University of Manchester, where he conducted groundbreaking research on high-dimensional orbital angular momentum states within radio waves. He also earned a degree in Physics from the Illinois Institute of Technology, working for four years at the Advanced Photon Source. Dr. Schemmel has published over 30 papers in leading journals and conferences. He also holds a patent for his pioneering work in vortex radiometer technology.

Currently serving as the NASA Communications Service Project Manager, Dr. Schemmel leads the effort to replace NASA's Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS) with cutting-edge commercial space communication services. This initiative aims to enhance communication capabilities for space missions and revolutionize how we establish connectivity in earth-proximity operations.

Before becoming the Manager of the NASA Communications Service Project, Dr. Schemmel served at the NASA Office of Technology, Policy, and Strategy, where he played a vital role in shaping the agency's strategic technology investments. He developed and implemented quantitative approaches to inform decision-making processes, ensuring the allocation of resources to the most promising and impactful technological advancements.