



## Alexander MacDonald

Alex MacDonald is a research scientist at Carnegie Mellon University and is serving as the first-ever research economist at the NASA Ames Research Center where he advises senior management on matters of economic policy and program development. He conducts fundamental research on the economics of space exploration under NASA research grant.

Other responsibilities have included advisory roles on a number of NASA programs - including the Commercial Reusable Suborbital Research (CRuSR) Program, the Franklin and Edison Small Satellite Programs, and the Exploration Scout Program - and internal report writing on a variety of topics, including briefing notes on economic development used during the NASA conference associated with President Obama's space

policy speech at Kennedy Space Center in April 2010.

He is also a Clarendon Scholar and a D.Phil candidate at the University of Oxford for his dissertation "The Long Space Age: Essays on the Economic History of Space Exploration from Galileo to Gagarin". He is one of the inaugural TED Senior Fellows and has been involved with a number of spacecraft design projects including small satellite designs for coral reef health mapping, earthquake early-detection, micro-satellite communications constellations, and asteroid rendezvous.