

About Jim

Jim is the founder of several entrepreneurial start-ups, including Vector Space, StratSpace and Vintage Exotics Competition Engineering. He was on the founding team of Moon Express, the first private company to attempt to land on the lunar surface, and played a fundamental role in founding SpaceX and was the first VP of Business Development. Jim Co-Founded Vector Space which is a launch platform company that is developing affordable small launch capabilities aimed at the Micro Spacecraft market. StratSpace plays pivotal technical and financing roles in the aerospace industry's most innovative companies including: Skybox Imaging, Planet Labs and Rocket Lab. StratSpace played significant technical roles on ground-breaking spacecraft missions including the Pluto New Frontiers mission, Osiris-Rex which will bring home samples of an asteroid and Lightsail which is a privately funded solar sail mission.

Jim serves on several local and national corporate boards for aerospace, energy companies, launch vehicle providers and the Sports Car Club of America. He holds board of advisor positions at The Planetary Society, ATLAS Space, Morf3D, York Space Systems, and Iceye. He has also served on 35 major government source selection boards.

Jim is often quoted in the trade press as an expert on the commercial space market, aerospace market conditions, launch vehicles, Elon Musk and SpaceX, new business competitions and industrial base matters. Mr. Cantrell has also worked with political candidates and other staff members on space and defense policy matters where his broad view of the exterior political trends and their implications on the aerospace industry and industrial base has been valuable.

Jim speaks four languages and spent several years each working in France for the French Space Agency and in Russia on joint US/Russian defense programs. Jim has held positions with NASA, the French Space Agency CNES, CEO of Vector Space, CEO of StratSpace, CTO at Moon Express, President of United Start Launch, President of Vintage Exotics and CEO of IDair, a bio-metrics software company.

Jim is the author of twelve scientific research papers and popular articles on space related technical and business topics. He is also a known expert and author on the Maserati automotive marquee. He currently resides in Tucson with his wife Angela and his many children.