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Saber Astronautics Gains Space Certification from the Space Foundation

Colorado Springs, CO: Leading space venture [Saber Astronautics](http://saberastro.com) (saberastro.com) was recently awarded Certified Space Technology™ status from the [Space Foundation](http://spacefoundation.org) for their innovative operations software. The software, called the Predictive Ground Station Project (a.k.a., “PIGI”), uses video game technology to enable people to create their own missions and operate large numbers of satellites with very little training.

The commercial space industry is expected to grow rapidly over the next ten years, mainly due to advances in small satellites. Once the realm only of large multinational companies and government agencies, modern small satellites are produced very cheaply, enough for entrepreneurs, hobbyists, and students to get involved. Small satellites are producing images and data useful to industries here on Earth, such as agriculture, mining, and banking, and at costs well within the range of traditional startup seed funding. Some of Saber’s customers, for example, include satellites funded for less than \$150k on a Kickstarter campaign.

“That’s less than half the cost of a juice-bar franchise,” said Dr Jason Held, Saber Astronautics’ Director and CEO. “The ‘do-it-yourself’ movement is getting involved, many of whom are solid engineers, have always wanted to try space, but aren’t traditionally trained in space engineering. They often do well with developing the satellite but can struggle with the outdated operational tools, many of which are text based and hard to learn.”



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The PIGI project closes that gap, enabling people to rapidly experiment with new concepts. A private Alpha release was completed in September and is now available to the general public. Saber also organized a range of space entrepreneurship workshops in the USA, Australia, and the EU, where undergraduate students designed their own missions. Some of these teams are earning cash prizes with one team even raising Series-A funding based in part from results of the software. “Our aim is the democratization of space,” remarked Dr Held, “where anyone, regardless of background, can bring their innovation, ideas, and talent to market.”

The Space Certification Program was created by the Space Foundation, in cooperation with NASA, to raise awareness and understanding about space and the significant and practical benefits of technologies originally developed for the space program, which have been adapted into products and services that improve life on Earth. The Space Certification Program recognizes companies that produce and market these products and services.

“Predictive Ground Station Project is a uniquely ingenious product, combining space technology and elements of education. We're happy to welcome Saber Astronautics into the Space Certification program,” said Kevin Cook, Space Foundation Vice President – Marketing & Communications.

About Saber Astronautics

Saber Astronautics’ mission is to reduce barriers to space flight, making it more accessible to people on Earth. Saber’s Predictive Groundstation Project (PIGI) is a next-generation space mission control software developed by an experienced team of space operations, systems control, ux, and robotics experts. PIGI brings together the latest techniques in human factors, artificial intelligence, and dynamic 3D data visualization to make it easy for spacecraft operators to monitor, fly, and rapidly diagnose faults in spacecraft systems. For more information, please visit www.saberastro.com



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About the Space Foundation

Founded in 1983, the Space Foundation is the foremost advocate for all sectors of space, and is a global, nonprofit leader in space awareness activities, educational programs and major industry events, including the annual [Space Symposium](#), in support of its mission "to advance space-related endeavors to inspire, enable and propel humanity." Space Foundation World Headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo., USA, has a public [Discovery Center](#), including El Pomar Space Gallery, Northrop Grumman Science Center featuring Science On a Sphere® and the Lockheed Martin Space Education Center. The Space Foundation has a Washington, D.C., office and field representatives in Houston and the Florida Space Coast. It publishes [The Space Report: The Authoritative Guide to Global Space Activity](#), and through its [Space Certification™](#) and [Space Technology Hall of Fame®](#) programs, recognizes space-based innovations that have been adapted to improve life on Earth. Visit both of our websites – www.SpaceFoundation.org and DiscoverSpace.org – and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Pinterest](#), [Twitter](#), [Google+](#), [Flickr](#) and [YouTube](#), and read our e-newsletter [Space Watch](#).



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For any enquiries, please contact:

Jason Held
Director/CEO
Saber Astronautics Pty Ltd
+61 433 178 740
jheld@saberastro.com

Space Foundation contact:

Carol Hively, Director - Public Relations & Team Communications
media@spacefoundation.org