

Michael Laine

President at LiftPort Group

Port Orchard (Near Seattle), WA, US

Think Big! There is a profound difference between 'difficult', 'very hard' and 'impossible'. We're building an Elevator to Space. Really.

Biography

Michael Laine has been involved with Space Elevator research since the definitive 2001-3 NASA study. At LiftPort he manages a talented team from academia, government, commercial and military communities. Laine's team has created carbon nanotubes, discovered a new metal alloy, and built robots that climbed a mile into the sky. Laine's business management, coupled with his media, marketing and outreach skills have transformed this project from an obscure NASA paper study to a real world program – with tangible results.

LiftPort Group, is experiencing a renaissance. It recently shifted gears to focus on a Lunar Space Elevator Infrastructure. Laine's mandate to his team has three elements:

- 1) Sputnik-like simplicity
- 2) Purchase Order Technology
- 3) Single Launch Solution.

Echoing President Kennedy's commitment, Laine and LiftPort believe we can create an Elevator on the Moon "...before this decade is out."

Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Author Appearance, Corporate Training

Industry Expertise

Aerospace, Education/Learning, VC and Private Equity

Areas of Expertise

Space, Advanced Technology, Leadership, Operational Management, Nanotechnology

Affiliations

LiftPort Group - President, International Space Elevator Consortium - Adviser, Awesome Seattle Foundation - Trustee, Space Literacy Foundation - Board Member, Leeward Space Foundation - Board Member, International Space University US Alumni Association - President

Sample Talks

Space Elevator 101

This is a visionary talk. How and why we are building the “biggest thing, ever!” We discuss the history of the project, and use multimedia to describe construction and usage of the system. I use about 30% of my allotted time to show ‘canned’ material – this puts everyone on the same page. Then it is a ‘free-for-all’ of Q&A for the remaining period. I use extensive video, animation, imagery and playful storytelling to make this project relevant.

Event Appearances

Academic Events and Invited Guest Lecturer

Princeton & Rutgers & North Carolina State & Puget Sound Universities; Harvard Business School; Georgia, New Jersey & Massachusetts Institutes of Technology; University of Washington

Government Briefings and Subject Matter Expert

US Congress, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Athens Conference on Advanced Technology, NASA Centennial Challenges Workshop, FAA, FCC, CIA, NRO, NSA, NASA

Military Invited Guest Lecturer

US Air Force Academy, National Defense University, Defense Advanced Projects Research Agency, Air Force Research Laboratory

Social Good Events - Keynote and Panelist

Conference on World Affairs, High, Middle and Elementary School, Students for the Exploration and Development of Space, Lions, Rotary, San Diego Air and Space Museum, Seattle Museum of Flight

Space Advocacy - Keynote, Lobbyist, and Panelist

National Space Society – International Space Development Conferences, Mars Society, Space Frontier Foundation, Space Access Society, ProSpace, Seattle Astronomical Society

Advanced Technology Geek – Keynote

MindCamp, Futures Salons (Seattle, San Francisco, Las Vegas), Science Cafes, DorkBot, Seattle Robotics Society, San Francisco Robotics Society, Science on Tap

Business Keynote, Contestant, Subject Matter Expert

Microsoft Research, MIT Enterprise Forum, Agora StartUp Idol, University of Washington Technology Center - NanoTechnology Lab

Industry Research Keynote, Invited Guest Lecturer

Foresight Nanotech Institute, International Space Elevator Conference, Aerospace Electronic Systems Society (IEEE)

Science Fiction Keynote, Panelist, Book Signings & Readings

DragonCon, NorWesCon, WesterCon, RustyCon, BaltiCon, Icon, Science Fiction Museum

Education

International Space University

Masters in Business Administration

United States Marine Corps

'School of Hard Knocks'

International Space University

Space Studies Program - Barcelona Spain

Boston University

Business Administration, Marketing, Organizational Behavior

Accomplishments

Digital + Mass Media Interviews

Television – CNN/Money, ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, NW Cable News, PBS, Discovery Channel, BBC, CBC, V3, Science Channel, CNET, MSNBC.

Radio – BBC, CBC, NPR, The Space Show, EarthSky, Science & Society.

Internet – TheSpaceReview, CNN Blog, Space.com, MSNBC, Wired News, io9, Universe Today, AZO Nano, ComSpaceWatch, SpaceDaily, Global Security, NextBigFuture, LiveScience, Sina, SciScoop, VentureBeat.

Awards

Scholarship to Leadership Kitsap; Presented with award by Chief of Police and Mayor of Bremerton; Featured in Newsweek: Space Elevator is the #4 “Invention that will change the next century”; Passed the test, but declined membership in Mensa; Seattle Robotics Society awarded “Most Innovative”; Seattle Business Monthly: “Top 25 Innovative Companies”; International Space University Scholarships; “Shorty Award” finalist for Science.

While serving in the United States Marine Corps

“Top 1%” of all Marines for physical fitness, and rifleman; Meritoriously promoted. Navy Unit Commendation, Marine Unit Citation (x2), Good Conduct, Navy Achievement Medal, Honorable discharge, recognized by Commandant of Marines.

Magazine + Newspaper Interviews

Fortune, Inc., Newsweek, Aviation Week, Wired, Seattle Magazine, Economist, Popular Science, New Scientist, Air and Space, Aviation, Cosmos, La Fletcha, Reforma, Focus, DD Magazine, Rue89, Flight International, Dnevnik.

London Times, New York Times, Washington Post, Globe and Mail, London Guardian, Seattle Post Intelligencer/Times, Toronto Star, Punjab News, Mail and Guardian, Taipei Times, Investor's Business Daily, Washington Times, Boston Business Journal, USA Today

Testimonials

placeholder

This is a 'placeholder' testimonial. I've never really felt the need to collect these before. But I've sent out a few requests, and I'm certain I'll get some good reviews.

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