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Aerospace Systems
Research Institute

Public Lecture

UKZN's Aerospace Systems Research Institute

Cordially invites you to attend a Fireside Discussion

SPEAKER:

Mr Roger Jardine

TOPIC:

From Atoms to Orbits: A Personal Journey and Reflection on South Africa's Strategic Sovereignty



Tuesday
24 February 2026



10h00-11h00



Howard College Theatre
Howard College Campus

ABOUT THE TALK: During this fireside discussion, Mr Jardine will cover some of the interesting historical narratives connecting South Africa's nuclear past, to the "civilianising" of these programmes through the 1994 transition, through to opportunities in space for South Africa today, including Mura Space's tie up with UKZN on the suborbital launch gantry project.



ABOUT THE SPEAKER: William Rodger "Roger" Jardine (born 13 September

1965) is a South African business executive, former government official and social activist. At age 29, Jardine became the Director General of South Africa's Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, becoming the youngest director general in the country's history. He contributed to policy work on nuclear disarmament in South Africa, and the first White paper on science and technology in 1996, which contributed to the later establishment of new research facilities and infrastructure such as the Southern African Large Telescope, Technology Innovation Agency and South African National Space Agency. Jardine is presently a non-executive director of Old Mutual, as well as Chairman and Co-Founder of start-up Mura Space, a member of the Global Spaceport Alliance. Mura's activities are aimed at supporting a globally competitive, orbital and sub-orbital space launch value chain in southern Africa. Jardine formerly served as the Chairperson of FirstRand, and formerly also Chair of the Nuclear Energy Corporation and the former Chair of the Council for Scientific & Industrial Research.



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