



# AURELIA

## Spinout Founding Team – Autonomous Space Robotics

*Search Open: February - March 2024, or until filled*

Trailblazers are already building the road to space. It's time to design, build, test, and launch the space habitat and robotic infrastructure for a life worth living once we get there. Aurelia Institute is a non-profit space architecture research and development lab, education and outreach center, and policy hub dedicated to scaling humanity's presence in space. We are seeking a founding CEO and CTO for an aerospace company that will be incubated internally and spun-out in 2024.

We are developing self-assembling robotics for microgravity environments (e.g., autonomous docking of satellites, parabolic mirror tiles, habitat components, etc.). We are building this company around the [TESSERAE](#) platform concept (flight proven prototype, flown twice to ISS) first in a beachhead market and ultimately, if applicable, in a range of use cases.

The founding team will work closely with the technology inventor/PI and the board to develop a business model, go-to-market plan, and technology roadmap and will lead the next in-space demo. This role includes existing engineering team support, a straightforward path to in-house capital for the first pre-seed round (pending performance), and extensive mentorship and entrepreneurship support through the Aurelia ecosystem to empower the founding team as the steady-state leaders of the company going forward. Both individual applicants and founding partner teams are welcome to apply.

### Background on Aurelia Ecosystem

- [Aurelia Institute](#) is a non-profit space architecture R&D lab, education and outreach center, and policy hub dedicated to building humanity's future in space, with cross-over technologies for climate change mitigation on Earth. This new organization was spun out of Dr. Ariel Ekblaw's research lab at the [MIT Space Exploration Initiative](#).
- [Aurelia Foundry](#) is a for-profit deep tech space fund investing in companies that spin out of Aurelia's non-profit incubation ecosystem and in outside founders that fit our investment thesis for life in space and space infrastructure for the benefit of life on Earth.
- Together, the two pieces form a hybrid organization whose mission is to prepare humanity to become a thriving, Earth-conscious, spacefaring species. Our aim is to develop the infrastructure, technologies, markets, and policies that will help us scale humanity's horizons from early space stations in LEO to the fullness of a principled interplanetary civilization. We are at a critical inflection point in the space industry where major commercial investments are being made and precedents are being set at a record pace. Aurelia is moving quickly to drive and shape rigorous, accessible space exploration with strategies for long term human flourishing, while profoundly benefitting life on Earth.



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## CEO expectations & requirements:

- Undergraduate B.S. in technical field (science/engineering)
- Advanced degree (MBA preferred, or technical MS + business experience)
- 7-10 years working experience in technical or business management of complex engineering development AFTER undergrad (can include grad programs)
- Excels in developing and leading product roadmap for highly technical, high risk work
- Effective operator with proven track record of executing on complex, multi-stakeholder projects
- Strong background in business fundamentals (creative strategy & business model drafting; financial/accounting literacy; ability to generate and grow revenue; interdisciplinary ease across HR, ops, logistics)
- Exceptional communicator; facility with pitching, public speaking, and digital thought leadership; experience with board communication and facilitation
- Experienced with strategic partnerships and brings a unique, influential network to the role
- Thoughtful, accomplished leader with intentional vision for balancing healthy & hustling team culture
- Prepared to lead an early stage start-up through multiple rounds of fundraising & high growth period (explicit prior experience or aptitude for this is critical)
- Compelling, charismatic individual who can recruit others to the mission; high EI/EQ
- Demonstrated passion for space exploration / aerospace field

## CTO expectations & requirements:

- Undergraduate B.S. in technical field (science/engineering)
- Advanced degree (PhD or technical MS + work experience in relevant field)
- 7-10 years technical experience in development of complex engineering systems **in aerospace & defense** AFTER undergrad (can include grad programs)
- Excels in developing and leading technical roadmap for highly specialized, groundbreaking work
- Interdisciplinary, strong technical background in **at least one** of the following:
  - Mechatronics / embedded systems / applied EE
  - Aerospace controls / ADCS / GNC (or drone experience)
  - Aerospace structures / advanced mechanisms / MechE
  - Coding for hardware (firmware, BLE, etc.)
  - \*in the early days, the CTO is expected to be an individual technical contributor as well\*
- Must be highly familiar with / able to supervise a technical team through:
  - Engineering CAD (solidworks or fusion preferred; CATIA welcome)
  - PCB design (Altium, Eagle, and/or comparable)
  - Aerospace simulation and software tools (Matlab/Simulink, ANSYS/STK, NX, etc.)
  - Requirements drafting & systems engineering best practices
- Strong communicator, with high EI/EQ and passion for leading top-notch technical teams



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- Multifaceted thinker with ability to pull in expertise from multiple fields and manage complex, multi-subsystem projects
- Prepared to lead an early stage start-up through multiple rounds of fundraising and high risk, in-space technical deployments
- Demonstrated passion for space exploration / aerospace field

## Additional preferred skills (for both CEO and CTO):

- Prior early stage start-up experience, in a team of 5-50 employees
- Prior founder experience
- Explicit Aerospace Industry work experience
- Experience fundraising >\$50k
- Experience with DoD ecosystem / government contracts
- Have flown something to space previously

## Major Perk:

- Recurring annual zero-gravity flights where you (personally) get to fly :)

## How to Apply:

Fill out [our application form](#) and include your resume/CV. Cover letters or email self-introductions are not required but may be helpful for those transitioning from another industry.