# **News**update



Jacob Mulder
**Asgardia Minister of Manufacturing**
**The Netherlands**

## A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR MANUFACTURING

**A**sgardia, the Space Nation, is practically outworking a dream shared by many. As the world's first fully functional digital democracy, it is paving the way to living in space and, in this regard, its rapidly evolving manufacturing policies are key pillars.

The nation's Ministry of Manufacturing, headed by IT specialist Jacob Mulder, is already facilitating and promoting agile and robust integration, using standards, frameworks and 21st century marketplace methodologies.

Mulder became involved with Asgardia in 2019 during the space nation's first Space Science and Investment Congress, held in Darmstadt, Germany, where he presented a paper entitled 'Sustainable Space Colony Swarm Architecture'.

After the congress he participated in Asgardia's parliamentary by-elections and was elected a Member of Parliament (AMP). His subsequent application for the position of Minister of Manufacturing in 2021 was successful.

"Our goals are to develop and implement industrial and manufacturing policies, to facilitate and create an enabling environment for Asgardia's industrial growth and to lay a proper foundation to support serious preparations for living in space," he says.



▲ Jacob Mulder at work.

"It should be business focused on multiple markets, supporting the 'as a service' methodology, modular, agile, professional, sustainable, robust and secure. Many businesses are already registered in Asgardia and manufacturing should facilitate the benefits Asgardia can bring."

Mulder shares the same vision of integrating components, products and services as Fernando Jimenez Motte, chair of the Parliamentary Manufacturing Committee.

The first steps towards creating a manufacturing economy now being taken include:

- defining Asgardian standards
- implementing central file management and other collaboration tools
- defining a standard approach for project and programme management
- defining a standard manufacturing & integration approach
- eventually establish a marketplace for components and services in the context of Asgardia.

"All of these constitute a robust foundation for manufacturing and business development within Asgardia, and they will help Asgardia lead the way for humanity to make the giant leap to living and working in space," says Mulder.

Having relevant and accepted standards is a prerequisite for collaboration and for robust and secure integration, so one of the first steps after the initiation of the Ministry of Manufacturing was to establish the Asgardia Institute of Standards (AIS).

Actively being developed as a pilot prototype, it currently contains six transitional Asgardian standards: 1) Asgardia branding, 2) 12 Asgardian languages, 3) units & numbers, 4) the use of other (existing) standards, 5) information security, and 6) the Asgardian calendar.

Mulder's personal ambition is to eventually emigrate into space himself, where zero gravity will counteract a debilitating spinal condition which means he has to live and work in a wheelchair whilst on Earth.

Mulder, who works in the Netherlands for a leading IT multinational firm, is also chair of Paletzorg, a healthcare partnership, and owner of MADmelange, his own private company. He urges anyone who shares the vision of building humanity's future in space to become a resident of Asgardia and play an active role in the space nation's growth and development.

# HEAD OF SPACE NATION ELECTION

**A**n election campaign for the person to lead Asgardia over the coming five years as the next Head of Nation is in full swing. Any resident of Asgardia who meets the requirements set out in the Constitution can run for office.

The election is on 9 September 2022 (28 Libra 0006) according to Decree No. 55 which was signed by the founder and current Head of Asgardia, Dr Igor Ashurbeyli, on 12 October 2021 (5 Ophiuchus 0005), the fifth birthday of the space nation.

"As the guarantor of the Constitution, the first thing I have to do is to abide by it," he said. "In 2022, my five-year term as leader of the first space nation will come to an end. I therefore announce the start of preparations for the autumn election. I urge all our residents - stand for election. You can do it yourself, or else your colleagues can do it."

The Head of Nation is the most senior official in Asgardia who sets the main directions of its domestic and foreign policy, and represents Asgardia in the nation and abroad.

Over the past five years, the foundations of nationhood have been laid in Asgardia - the Constitution has been adopted, the Parliament has been elected, the Government has been formed, and the Court established.

Asgardia's branches of power are focused on 12 focal areas defined by the Head of Nation: Science, Law, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Trade & Commerce, Manufacturing, Equity & Resources, Citizenship, Culture, Youth & Education, Safety & Security, Information & Communications.

Each one contributes in its own way to Asgardia's primary mission of having the first baby born in space and creating fully-fledged conditions for human life beyond planet Earth.

Over the next five years, Asgardia will focus on scientific projects related to artificial gravity technologies development, cosmic radiation protection, and space embryology; on developing the world's first digital economy, and on signing bilateral agreements on the recognition of Asgardia with planet Earth countries, followed by obtaining membership in the United Nations.

Further details about the election and those eligible to stand for the office of the Head of Nation can be found on the website - asgardia.space

# MEETINGS AROUND THE WORLD

**H**ead of Nation Dr Igor Ashurbeyli is undertaking a series of meetings worldwide with Asgardian MPs and representatives, which began with a visit to Baku, Azerbaijan, in March.

The meeting agenda included the election (9 September) of the Head of the Space Nation and discussion of events that might take place in Baku during the election campaign.

Each of Azerbaijan's AMPs is actively involved in both legislative and social aspects of Asgardia's parliamentary committees. Larisa Javanshir is a member of the Culture Committee, Emin Ismayilov is a member of Safety & Security, with Mahmud Mammadov and Gulnara Guseynova members of the Youth & Education Committee.

Dr Ashurbeyli was born in Azerbaijan and represents one of the country's most famous families, so Asgardia's development is observed with great interest. His father's ancestors were aristocratic oil industrialists, philanthropists, scientists and public figures. Today, traditions of this family continue, but on a global scale and international level.

▲ Dr Ashurbeyli in Azerbaijan for the first of a series of global meetings this spring and summer with Asgardian MPs and representatives.

# UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

**S**ince its inception in 1945, the United Nations has been actively engaged with NGOs and has recognised the importance of partnering with them to advance the organisation's ideals and help support its work.

Initially only 41 NGOs were granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). But this number has grown and today, thousands of NGOs enjoy this status with the Council.

Asgardia NGO is currently among 5,451 NGOs in active consultative status with ECOSOC. The NGO Branch is the focal point within the UN Secretariat for non-governmental organisations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and for NGOs seeking status. Its aims are the following:

• Support to NGOs
• Intergovernmental Support
• Conference registration
• Technical assistance.

The Branch is part of the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development (OISC), a division

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of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations.

These organisations are represented all over the world and work in many different areas including education, health, poverty eradication, human rights, gender equality and indigenous issues.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, NGOs also play an important role as partners on the ground, helping the international community deliver the ground-breaking agenda.

This fact was also recognised by UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin at a recent Civil Society Forum when he reiterated UN DESA's "commitment to a genuine partnership with civil society in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals".

"No one has all the answers, but one thing we do know is the importance of partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders. Governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector need to work together to promote sustainable development," Mr Liu said.

Consultative Status is a formal relationship between non-governmental organisations and the United Nations to allow NGOs to participate in the work of the UN. ECOSOC is the only entry point into the UN system for NGOs and NGOs that are accredited with ECOSOC can participate in many events, including, but not limited to, regular sessions of ECOSOC, its functional commissions and its other subsidiary bodies.

Asgardia's representatives are Dr Igor Ashurbeyli, Lena De Winne (Asgardia Prime Minister) and Markus Gronbach (Chief Legal Officer).



■ The SIRIUS-21 240-day isolation experiment at the IBMP RAS ground experimental facility in Moscow entered its final phase this spring with Asgardian resident and crew physician Victoria Kirichenko (pictured) playing a key role. Dr Mark Belakovsky, SIRIUS Project Chief Manager, reported on the progress of the international research experiment when he addressed the XV Sitting of the Space Nation's Parliament on 20 March 2022.



■ Bulgarian government representative Emil Drindolov met with Asgardia MPs Lembit Opik (Chair of Parliament), Amad Ahmed (Foreign Affairs Committee) and Keith Prince (AMP) in Sofia, Bulgaria, in April for initial discussions on working together and recognising Asgardia as a nation state. The two parties expressed their desire for continuous communication and cooperation.