



Tommaso Sgobba

International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS)

Tommaso Sgobba is IAASS Executive Director and Board Secretary. Tommaso Sgobba has been IAASS co-founder and first President in the period 2005-2013.

Until June 2013 Tommaso Sgobba has been responsible for flight safety at the European Space Agency (ESA), including human-rated systems, spacecraft re-entries, space debris, use of nuclear power sources, and planetary protection. He joined the European Space Agency in 1989, after 13 years in the aeronautical industry where he was quality manager in leading programs like Boeing B-767 airliner advanced flight controls, and Rolls-Royce/Avio military Spey engine.

At ESA, Tommaso Sgobba initially supported the developments of the Ariane 5 launcher, several earth observation and meteorological satellites, and the early phase of the European Hermes spaceplane. Later he became Product Assurance and Safety Manager for all European manned missions on Shuttle, MIR station, and for the European research facilities of the International Space Station (ISS). He chaired for 10 years the ESA ISS Payload Safety Review Panel. He was also instrumental in setting up the ESA Re-entry Safety Review Panel. Tommaso Sgobba is the ESA inventor of the R-DBAS (Re-entry, Direct Broadcasting Alert System), to alert the air traffic of falling fragments from uncontrolled space system re-entry.

Tommaso Sgobba holds an M.S. in Aeronautical Engineering from the Polytechnic of Turin (Italy), where he was also professor of space system safety (1999-2001). He has published several articles and papers on space safety, and co-edited the text book “Safety Design for Space Systems”, published in 2009, that was also published later in Chinese. He also co-edited the book entitled “The Need for an Integrated Regulatory Regime for Aviation and Space”, published in 2011. He was the Editor-in-Chief of the book “Safety Design for Space Operations” published in 2013. He is Managing Editor of the Journal of Space Safety Engineering and member of the editorial board of the Space Safety Magazine.

Tommaso Sgobba received the NASA recognition for outstanding contribution to the International Space Station in 2004, and the prestigious NASA Space Flight Awareness (SFA) Award in 2007.