



Erik Franks, MSc • 2nd

CEO, Tesseract

Tesseract • Y Combinator

North Hills, California • 500+

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Highlights



1 Mutual Connection

You and Erik both know Lydia Lewis

Erik's Activity

1,187 followers

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Thank you Miki Sode for moderating such an amazing panel at Space 2.0...
Erik liked



NASA considers acquiring more than one gateway propulsion module -...
Erik liked



Want to be part of a new frontier? Join Firefly Aerospace! We're filling key...
Erik liked



Chris Hadfield: Before we colonize Mars, we should settle the Moon
Erik liked



Maxar Technologies on LinkedIn: "NASA Jet Propulsion..."
Erik liked



No one won the Google Lunar X Prize, but these competitors are still...
Erik liked

[See all activity](#)

Experience



CEO

Tesseract

May 2017 – Present • 1 yr

San Francisco Bay Area

Tesseract is building non-toxic thrusters for small satellites with higher performance than Hydrazine biprop at lower cost.

Director of Information Technologies and Communications

International Space University USA Alumni Association

The Director for Information Technologies and Communications is responsible for the development and maintenance of the Association's web site, a main instrument in the communication among Members and publicity of the Association and communication to Members of the Association's activities.

Operations Manager

 Masten Space Systems

Jul 2015 – May 2017 • 1 yr 11 mos

Mojave, CA

Current responsibilities:

DARPA XS-1 Phase 1b Discrete Event Simulation Lead

DARPA XS-1 Phase 1b Ground Operations Lead

Accounting

FAA & DoD Airspace Coordination

Facilities - Existing buildings, new building construction and setup, and new test site

Purchasing

HR

Masten Website & IT Management

Business Development

Media (1)



Rocket Systems Engineer

 Masten Space Systems

May 2013 – Jul 2015 • 2 yrs 3 mos

Mojave, CA

Responsible for facilities, accounting, purchasing, high-test hydrogen peroxide safety program, hazardous materials handling, videography for Xaero-B and rocket test trailer firing, and DARPA XS-1 Phase-1 Flight Operations planning. Also involved as rocket flight ground crew, programmer of numerous telemetry visualization tools.



Airplane Builder & Test Pilot

Velocity Airplane

Apr 2009 – Aug 2012 • 3 yrs 5 mos

- Built experimental aircraft from parts to test flight
- Proficient in composite building techniques for fiberglass and epoxy
- Completed all avionics and wiring of plane and engine/powerplant
- Integrated General Motors Corvette LS1 engine for aircraft use with full sensor compliment
- Successfully test flew airplane through FAA Phase 1 and entered Phase 2 within two months

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Q Search



Y Combinator

Combinator
or

Entrepreneurship/Entrepreneurial Studies
2017 – 2017

S17



International Space University

International
Space
University

Master of Science (MSc), Space Studies
2012 – 2013



The University of Texas at Austin

University
of Texas
at Austin

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Economics
1998 – 2003

Accomplishments

3 Honors & Awards

NASA Group Achievement Award - ADAPT/FOALS Project Team • NASA Group Achievement Award - Autonomous Descent/Ascent Powered-Flight Testbed Team • NASA Group Achievement Award to ADAPT Team

1 Certification

CPR/First Aid