

## Reference Interstellar Organizations & Web Sites

Compiled by Bob Cesarone

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### **British Interplanetary Society**

<http://www.bis-space.com/>

The British Interplanetary Society (BIS) is Britain's leading think tank on space development. Founded in 1933, it is the world's longest established organization devoted solely to supporting and promoting the exploration of space and astronautics. The BIS is financially independent, has charitable status, and obtains its main income from a worldwide membership.

The British Interplanetary Society is devoted to initiating, promoting and disseminating new concepts and technical information about space flight and astronautics through meetings, symposia, publications, visits and exhibitions.

The Society's first definitive paper on the requirements for Interstellar Travel appeared in JBIS as long ago as 1952. In the late 1970s a group of members worked together on the design of a possible interstellar vehicle that was published in 1981 as the [Daedalus Study](#). From this followed many papers concerned with communications with extraterrestrial intelligences (SETI) and associated studies.

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### **Centauri Dreams (Paul Gilster)**

<http://www.centauri-dreams.org/>

Alpha Centauri and other nearby stars seem impossible destinations not just for manned missions but even for robotic probes like Cassini or Galileo. Nonetheless, serious work on propulsion, communications, long-life electronics and spacecraft autonomy continues at NASA, ESA and many other venues, some in academia, some in private industry. The goal of reaching the stars is a distant one and the work remains low-key, but fascinating ideas continue to emerge. This site will track current research. I'll also throw in the occasional musing about the literary and cultural implications of interstellar flight. Ultimately, the challenge may be as much philosophical as technological: to reassert the value of the long haul in a time of jittery short-term thinking.

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### **Icarus Interstellar (Richard Obousy, et al)**

<http://www.icarusinterstellar.org/>

The mission of Icarus Interstellar is to realize interstellar flight before the year 2100. We will accomplish this objective by researching and developing the science and the technologies that will make interstellar flight a reality, igniting the public's interest, and engaging with all those prepared to invest in interstellar exploration.

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## **NASA (GRC)**

<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/glenn/home/index.html#.UgqtKbyRP48>

Active Personnel: Stan Borowski, Geoff Landis, others (?)

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## **NASA (JSC)**

<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/johnson/home/index.html#.Ugqs9byRP48>

Active Personnel: Harold G. (aka Sonny) White, others (?)

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## **NASA (JPL)**

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/>

Active Personnel: Bob Cesarone, Jeff Nosanov, others (?)

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## **Tau Zero Foundation (Marc Millis)**

<http://www.tauzero.aero/>

### **(1) Provides the latest news about star flight (36,000 subscribers)**

News is extracted from the professional literature and shared in more accessible terms. Each article includes a moderated discussion forum. The span of coverage includes:

- What's out there – exoplanetology, astronomy, cosmology, and more
- Technical advances for getting there – fusion drives, antimatter drives, ion engines, solar sails and magnetic sails, and more
- Research into advanced physics
- Societal implications

### **(2) Finds today's pioneers**

Tau Zero scans the scientific literature, looking for those researchers who take intellectual risks beyond the comfort zone of their peers and develop them soundly. We then attempt to forge collaborations for cross-fertilization and efficiency.

### **(3) Contributes to the pool of knowledge**

Assists pioneers and scouts to make progress on the next-step challenges. This progress is compiled into our publicly accessible "[Discoveries Log](#)."

### **(4) Creates educational opportunities (Still in development)**

With the assistance of the Ohio Aerospace Institute, we are creating opportunities for graduate students to answer relevant questions as part of their graduate studies.

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## **100 Year Starship (Mae Jemison)**

<http://100yss.org/>

We exist to make the capability of human travel beyond our solar system a reality within the next 100 years. We unreservedly dedicate ourselves to identifying and pushing the radical leaps in knowledge and technology needed to achieve interstellar flight, while pioneering and transforming breakthrough applications that enhance the quality of life for all on Earth. We actively seek to include the broadest swath of people and human experience in understanding, shaping and implementing this global aspiration.

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