

The Keck Institute for Space Studies presents an open lecture:

Building the First Spaceport in Low Earth Orbit

John Blincow, Gateway Foundation Tom Spilker, Retired (JPL)

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

4:30 PM Refreshments 5:00 PM Lecture

Lees-Kubota Lecture Hall,
Guggenheim Building
California Institute of Technology

The construction of The Gateway will be humankind's most ambitious endeavor in space. A new kind of construction – a new way of thinking about building things – will be required to build what is, essentially, a city in space.

To construct a massive spaceport like the Gateway would take a generation if we didn't use construction techniques like those used in modern ship building and automobile factories.

Ships today are constructed by connecting prefabricated sections constructed in other parts of the shipyard. This method is known as "Block construction". Smaller things that need to be fabricated in large quatities are built using assembly lines. By bringing both of these methods together we can create large blocks or segments in a rather quick manner using a machine designed for just such a purpose.

No registration is required for this open lecture. Seating is limited and is available on a first come, first served basis.