

Daniel M Tani

Mr. Daniel (Dan) Tani is the Chief Development Officer at Iris.Aero, located in Falls Church, VA.

From 2012 to 2025, Dan held several roles in the government, non-profit, education and private sectors. Most recently, he was a Director and Program Manager at Northrop Grumman Space Systems. Prior to that, he served as a Chief at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, a Director at the US-Japan Foundation, a High School Teacher at the American School in Japan, and a Vice-President at Orbital Sciences Corporation.



From 1996 to 2012, Dan was an astronaut based at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. In his 16 year career at NASA, he flew on 2 space missions, for an accumulated 132 days in space, featuring 6 space walks. On his first spaceflight (2001), he served as a Mission Specialist on the 12-day STS-108 mission aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour. On his second spaceflight (2007-2008), he served as a Flight Engineer for 4 months aboard the International Space Station (ISS) as a member of the Expedition 16 crew. He was delivered to the ISS as a member of the STS-120 crew aboard Space Shuttle Discovery, and was returned to Earth as a member of the STS-122 crew aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis. His spaceflight preparation included extensive training at the cosmonaut training facility in Star City, Russia; hiking and sea kayaking with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS); winter and sea survival courses; high performance jet flying; and serving as a member of the NEEMO-2 crew where he worked and lived in an underwater habitat for 8 days. In addition to his training and preparation for spaceflight, Dan served as Capsule Communicator ("Capcom") in Mission Control, was a Branch Chief in the Astronaut Office's Space Station branch, and performed other technical assignments.

Originally from the Chicago area, Dan is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, having received a BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering. He is a 3rd generation Japanese-American and the son of parents that were interned at the Topaz Relocation Center as part of the mandatory evacuation of Japanese descendants during World War II. A mediocre but avid golfer, he lives with his wife Jane (from Cork, Ireland) and 3 children in Northern Virginia.

Chronology:

1961: Born in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania
1964: Family moved to Lombard, Illinois
1979: Graduated from Glenbard East High School (Lombard, Illinois)
1979 - 1981: Attended University of Chicago (Chicago, Illinois)
1981 - 1984: Transferred to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, Massachusetts)
1984: Received Bachelor of Science from MIT , Mechanical Engineering
1984 - 1986: Engineer at Hughes Aircraft Company (Los Angeles, California)
1986 - 1988: Graduate student at MIT
1988: Received Masters of Science from MIT, Mechanical Engineering
1988 - 1996: Engineer at Orbital Sciences Corporation (Dulles, Virginia)
1996: Selected as a NASA astronaut (Houston Texas)
 2001: STS-108 (Space Shuttle Endeavor) 12 day mission, 1 space walk
 2007: STS-120 (Space Shuttle Discovery) - delivered to ISS, 16 day mission, 1 space walk
 2007 - 2008: ISS Expedition 16, 104 day mission, 4 space walks
 2008: STS-122 (Space Shuttle Atlantis) - returned to Earth from ISS
2012: Retired from NASA - joined Orbital Sciences Corporation as Vice President
2016: Joined The American School in Japan (ASIJ) as a Middle and High School Science, Technology & Design Teacher (Tokyo, Japan)
2018: Joined the US-Japan Foundation (USJF) as Director of Foundation Grants (NY, NY)
2021: Joined NASA Goddard Space Flight Center as chief of the INSPIRE office (Greenbelt, Maryland)
2022: Joined Northrop Grumman Space Systems as the Director of Business Development Operations (Dulles, VA)
2025: Joined Iris.Aero as the Chief Development Officer (Falls Church, VA)

Contact:

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Headshot: <https://tinyurl.com/Tani-headshot2022-casual>

Astronaut Portrait: <https://tinyurl.com/Tani-litho>