**Richard Ambrosi, School of Physics and Astronomy (10.06.22)**

I’m Richard Ambrosi, I’m the Executive Director for Space Park Leicester, but I’m also Professor of Space Nuclear Power Systems and Space Instrumentation based in the School of Physics and Astronomy, so I have multiple roles, and I’m currently based at Space Park Leicester.

My research career going back several decades was actually a whistlestop tour of doing different things, working in mining-related research, doing things in medical physics, and then working in the space sector, so it’s been a bit of a multi-faceted path, largely unplanned with lots of serendipity, which has led me to work at the University of Leicester in the space sector.

To develop systems that can operate in space, you really need to bring capability across different disciplines together. I lead an activity that is focused on using nuclear power systems in space, and it’s very much a multi-disciplinary challenge, because you’re bringing chemists, engineers, physicists, lawyers, regulators, all to the table to address how we use this piece of technology in space, and certainly I think that’s one of the things I’m actually quite proud of, in the sense that we are as an institution a sort of leading light in the field of nuclear power systems in space.

I think some of the challenges are really about making sure that there is a broad team of people that, from an institutional perspective you can rely on, and also a broad team of collaborating institutes and partners that bring different sets of skills and expertise to the table. So it is about building those relationships – I would say it’s a challenge and also a reward, because when it works, it works really, really well. So we do spend quite a lot of time linking and building those relationships across different areas of capability, different areas of expertise.

Before moving to Space Park, I was based in the Michael Atiyah building, which is a short distance away from Physics, and if I needed to get out of the building, I always made sure that I walked by the nearest coffee shop so that I would be able to sit down, have a cup of coffee, and think about things before maybe going into a different building or a different place. So I guess I spent quite a lot of time walking past the David Wilson Library and coffee shop, and certainly the path between the Michael Atiyah and Physics allows you to go past those specific highlights, those specific points on the campus in order to blow off steam or have a few minutes outside of the office.