



Tomas Benedicto

Head of Payload Architects · Airbus Defence and Space · Toulouse, France
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I architect satellites **end to end**.

Aerospace engineer with 10 years in industry, from mechanical design to programme leadership. Today I lead Airbus's **payload architects and mission managers**: we support bids and design the next generation of telecom payloads, across all orbits.

10 years in the space industry	10+ satellite programmes contributed to	8+ global operators worked with	4 working languages
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PROGRAMMES I'VE WORKED ON

OneSat ♦ Galileo G2 ♦ Galileo ♦ Galileo Thruster Pointing Assembly (TPA) ♦ Deployable Thruster Module Assembly (DTMA) ♦ OneWeb ♦ Eutelsat 172B ♦ SES-14 ♦ Syracuse IV ♦ KMilSat ♦

01 What I bring

Three things set me apart: I've worked at every level of engineering, on every major satellite subsystem, and I now lead a team that delivers.

Every level

Analyst, designer, tester, architect, chief engineer, project manager, and now Head of Payload Architects. I know what each role needs because I've done it, and I take ownership from the first calculation to the final decision.

Every subsystem

Mechanical structures, electric propulsion, RF and digital telecom payloads. I see how a decision in one subsystem lands in the others, so I can design the system end to end.

Leadership & delivery

From Center of Competence board member to head of a team of 10+. I set the roadmap, cost and plan the work, manage subcontracting and empower people to deliver on time, on cost and on quality, with 8+ global operators and key suppliers.

02 Experience

Head of Payload Architects

Airbus Defence and Space · Telecom satellite payloads

Current

Aug 2026 – Present
Toulouse, FR

- Leading the team shaping the future of Airbus telecommunications satellite payloads: building technical excellence, developing people, and delivering competitive solutions that create lasting value for commercial and institutional customers.

Telecom Payload Systems Lead

Airbus Defence and Space · OneSat

Current

Dec 2023 – Present
Toulouse, FR

- Technical lead defining the concept of operations of a flexible digital telecommunications satellite system, leading a team of 10+ payload architects.
- Project manager for the payload, running its industrial contracts, schedule and risk.
- Chief engineer of the OneSat Payload Configuration Manager, spanning space segment, ground segment and in-orbit operations.
- Industrial contracts with global operators (Viasat, SES, Thaicom, JSAT, Optus, SingTel, Eutelsat, Yahsat) and suppliers (GMV, Kratos, TESAT, MDA) under tight cost, schedule and technical constraints.

Satellite Propulsion Lead Engineer & Project Manager

Airbus Defence and Space · Galileo Second Generation and a new European constellation

Jun 2021 – Jun 2024
Toulouse, FR

- Propulsion lead engineer for ESA's next-generation Galileo navigation satellites (Jun 2021 – May 2024): architecture of the electric propulsion subsystem and its mechanisms, verification and validation, and in-flight operations planning, reporting to the satellite chief engineer.
- Project manager (Jun 2021 – Jun 2024): led the end-to-end development of a new plasma propulsion assembly for an innovative European satellite constellation.
- Worked across propulsion, electrical, thermal and avionics engineering; flowed system requirements down to equipment and controlled compliance, deviations and waivers.
- Managed suppliers and chaired critical design reviews and non-conformance boards with international stakeholders; delivered on time, on cost and on quality.

Spacecraft Platform Design & Analysis Engineer

Airbus Defence and Space

Designed, justified and tested satellite platforms and thermo-mechanical products for telecom satellites in LEO and GEO and for Earth observation satellites: OneWeb, OneSat, Eutelsat 172B, SES-14, Syracuse IV and KMilSat.

Optimised the design of OneSat's novel structure and of the interfaces between satellites on the launcher and with the launcher itself.

Co-authored Airbus's international, ECSS-aligned industry standard for modelling and optimising space structures.

0ct 2017 – Jun 2021

Toulouse, FR · Stevenage, UK

Aerospace Engineer, Structural Optimisation

Airbus Defence and Space

Structural optimisation of spacecraft structures, working to ECSS standards.

Apr 2017 – Sep 2017

Toulouse, FR

Trainee, Structures & Mechanisms Division

European Space Agency · ESTEC

In the Spacecraft Dynamics Analysis team, verified the Ariane 5 to satellite interface in preparation for the first Ariane 5 launch of Galileo satellites.

Jul 2015 – Sep 2015

Noordwijk, NL

03 Leadership & R&D

2022 – 2024 · Airbus DS

Focal point, nuclear propulsion for space

Airbus's focal point for system-level R&D with nuclear-industry partners toward an ESA demonstrator targeted for 2035.

2018 – 2021 · Airbus DS

Center of Competence board member

Co-authored industry standards for finite element modelling and structural optimisation.

2018 · ESA & Airbus DS

ECSS MET conference paper

Co-author of a scientific paper on design processes for structural parts made by additive layer manufacturing.

04 Education & certifications

M.Sc. Aerospace Mechanics & Avionics

ISAE-SUPAERO · Toulouse

2015 – 2017

Award of Excellence 2017

Specialised in aerospace structures. Research on the failure modes of high-strength fibre composites using infrared techniques. Master students' representative on the university board and student representative of the Royal Aeronautical Society's Toulouse branch.

B.Sc. Aerospace Engineering

TU Delft · Delft

2012 – 2015

Awarded with Distinction

Systems Engineering & Excellence

Airbus DS · Toulouse, Ottobrunn & Getafe

2026

Airbus's chief-engineer track: leadership, system accountability and technical decision-making.

Project Management Professional (PMP®)

PMI

0ct 2024

Architecture & Systems Engineering: Models & Methods to Manage Complex Systems

MIT xPRO · professional certificate

Jan – Jul 2021

The systems engineering framework and MBSE for developing complex systems and managing uncertainty.

05 Toolkit

TECHNICAL

End-to-end systems engineering

Telecom payload

RF

Digital signal processing

Electric propulsion

Electrical

Thermal

Avionics

Mechanics & materials

LEO constellations

AIT

V&V

MBSE

ECSS

Python

LEADERSHIP

Project management

Contract leadership

Negotiation

Facilitation

Strategic thinking

Clear communication

LANGUAGES

Spanish

French

English

Dutch

German

Native

Native

Bilingual

Professional

Elementary

OFF DUTY

Football

Windsurfing

Piano