Short Bio:

Annika Rollock is the VP of Engineering at the Aurelia Institute, where she leads space habitat research and development across a multidisciplinary team of engineers and architects. She received her PhD from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where her research focused on creating methods to assess emerging technology for use in deep space habitats through the $15M NASA HOME (Habitats Optimized for Missions of Exploration) Space Technology Research Institute. On HOME, she helped to coordinate efforts across four different research thrust areas and seven universities over the five-year grant. Previously, Annika received her BS in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from MIT, with a minor in creative writing and literature.

Annika's previous work experience includes the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Bryce Tech, and Blue Origin, where she has worked on a variety of projects including design optimization, human factors considerations for AI, autonomous spacecraft operations, and rocket landing control algorithms. In her free time, she loves to read, write, and trail run.

Election Statement:

Space architecture is at a pivotal moment, with the ISS set to decommission by 2030 and interest in the field at an all-time high. As someone who has experience working across the aerospace industry, from government to academia to private industry, I believe I bring a unique perspective to the SATC that will help shape the future of the discipline. If given the chance to serve as Vice Chair, I will work to complete our ongoing efforts—such as the decadal survey—while maintaining the regular cadence of awards and conference sessions. Looking ahead, I also want to expand the SATC's presence and name recognition among other engineering disciplines, through additional conference and outreach events, in order to establish multidisciplinary dialogues across the industry and provide opportunities for SATC members.

For example, last fall, I led a 'Campfire Session' at the IAC in Milan, which gathered students, engineers, architects, and other professionals from across the industry to discuss the opportunities and challenges of using AI in space habitats. Space architecture sits at one of the most complex intersections of human factors, engineering, and design, and as the field continues to mature, I believe it is vital to utilize these venues to foster an ongoing dialogue across disciplines. As co-chair, I'll continue to host topical events at established aerospace conferences, such as ICES, IAC, and ASCEND.

As I mentioned in my application to SATC, I am also committed to advancing diversity and inclusion within the field of space architecture. As former chair of the AIAA Women of Aeronautics and Astronautics international organization, I oversaw mentorship, outreach, and educational program offerings for students across North and South America, Europe, and Asia. Space is a global endeavor, and I firmly believe that a diverse, international perspective is vital for the future of space architecture. Thank you for your consideration!