



Department of Automatic Control & Systems Engineering
would like to announce the following seminar:

Space in a Modern Society

Speaker: Professor David Southwood

**Director of Science and Robotic Exploration
European Space Agency
Paris, France**

**Wednesday 10th December 2008
at 13:00**

Location: Henry Stephenson Building LT2

Coffee and Biscuits will be served afterwards.

Abstract:

With the start of the space age, both the universe and the Earth changed or, at least, mankind's perception of both dramatically changed. 50 years on we can wonder at the vast increase in our knowledge of the Earth, solar system, and the stars and galaxies that access to space has provided. Space did indeed give us our first capacity to look at our own planet in a truly global manner. It even allowed to manage things on a global scale. Who would have predicted in 1957 that now we would use space to navigate our cars? Not many. However, at the same time, how many back then would have been sure that by now we would have had a base on the Moon? Quite a few, no doubt. What then is space about: exploration, exploitation, inspiration, education, knowledge? And, why does a developed nation need to care?