

**Dr. Jennifer Dawson** is the Senior Director of Space Business Transformation at Maxar Technologies, a leading spacecraft manufacturer. Jen leads an organization of more than 100 engineers who are responsible for defining the requirements and verification and validation steps to ensure successful space missions. Her previous roles at Maxar include Senior Systems Engineer, Product Assurance Program Manager, Director of Marketing and Sales, and Technical Director.



Jen has over 15 years experience in mechanical engineering and robotics. She worked for three years in self-driving safety as Senior Manager of Functional Safety at Toyota Research Institute and Head of Safety at Nuro, a robotics company providing local goods delivery through self-driving vehicles operating on public roads.

Jen graduated in 2003 from Bucknell University in Mechanical Engineering. She holds a masters and doctorate in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University and spent two years as a tenure-track professor at York College of Pennsylvania. In 2016, Jen was awarded the SSPI Promise Award, which recognizes outstanding achievement and leadership potential in the space and satellite industry. She was also awarded a Stevie Award for Women in Business for Best New Consumer Service and the Otto Hamburg award for her research on pyroshock failures of space hardware.

She has made it a priority to coach women on how to embrace leadership and to become mentors themselves. Several of her articles on mentoring, including "Allyship and survival skills: my advice to undergrad engineers," are available on her [LinkedIn](#) profile.