

## **Closing Lecture: The Story of the Space Elevator**

Ben Shelef, Chief Executive Officer, Spaceward Foundation, USA

The Space Elevator is probably the most daring space access proposal on the drawing boards today. First proposed as a thought experiment in 1960, the Space Elevator has since evolved into a concrete and practical engineering challenge for the 21st century. This presentation by the Spaceward Foundation is a light-technical talk that covers the history, basic concept, and future prospects of the Space Elevator. The presentation is given by Ben Shelef, a co-founder of the Spaceward Foundation and a member of the Space Elevator community. An aerospace engineer by day, he dons the mask and cape of Space Elevator crusader by night, and engages in daring escapades such as running the \$4,000,000 Space Elevator competitions and giving talks like this one. For more information, see <http://www.spaceward.org>.