



Van is Co-Founder and COO of Starburst Accelerator, an innovation catalyst in the aerospace industry. It is the first and only global aerospace accelerator, connecting startups with corporates, investors and government, providing growth and investment opportunities for all. With offices in Los Angeles, Paris, Munich, Montreal, San Francisco and Singapore, the team has built an ecosystem of key players with thousands of startups in its network.

Helping startups scale their business in aerospace, aviation and defense with access to the largest group of corporate stakeholders to help startups win their first \$1M+ contract.

Bio: Van Espahbodi, Co-Founder and COO of Starburst Accelerator

For 15+ years, Van has worked with governments and aerospace suppliers in business development at Raytheon and NATS, the British air navigation service provider; shaping regulations and developing key segments of airspace safety and infrastructure.

Prior to that, he served as legislative aide for U.S. Congressman Adam Schiff and interned for U.S. Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. Van currently serves as a member of the Economic Development Advisory Council for the City of El Segundo and the Advisory Board of the MIT Enterprise Forum.

Following graduate studies at George Mason University in International Commerce and Public Policy, Van participated in executive programs at Thunderbird School of Global Management and Cranfield School of Management in the UK.