



Chris Hadfield

Commander | Explorer | Renowned
Speaker | Business Leader | Six-Time
Bestselling Author

Biography:

Colonel Chris Hadfield is an astronaut, business leader, hi-tech entrepreneur, five-time bestselling author, and global speaker on leadership, change, and managing life. Having commanded the International Space Station and directed companies, he has deep experience with best practices and tactics on guiding teams through extreme circumstances of complexity and change. His keynotes celebrate the marvels and wonders of science and spaceflight while exploring the parallels between space exploration, leadership, and the strategic integration of emerging technologies.

Formerly NASA's Director of Operations in Russia, Hadfield spent more than three decades serving the military, NASA, and the Canadian Space Agency. Throughout his distinguished career, he has been a fighter/test pilot, flown three space missions, built two space stations, performed two spacewalks, crewed the Shuttle and Soyuz, and commanded the International Space Station. His many awards include the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Cross (twice), and the Order of Canada.

Today, Hadfield serves as a director and advisor to multiple tech companies, including Modul8, SpaceX, and Virgin Galactic. He also an adjunct professor at the University of Waterloo, chair of the Open Lunar Foundation, and is assisting King Charles III with space business practices for the Sustainable Markets Initiative. Hadfield also co-founded the Space Stream at the Creative Destruction Lab tech incubator, which has created \$1.6B of new business equity value in the past five years.

Hadfield's keynote presentations have been called "an astonishing display of visual storytelling" by Harvard Business Review, and his TED talk, "What I Learned from Going Blind in Space", has been viewed over 20 million times. He is frequently featured on national and global media outlets, has taught a MasterClass, and is the co-creator and host of the internationally acclaimed BBC series, Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? as well as co-host of National Geographic's One Strange Rock documentary series.

Hadfield is the author of six internationally bestselling books: two non-fiction, An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth and You Are Here; a children's book, The Darkest Dark, which has been adapted as an award-winning stage play for young audiences; and three fiction books, Final Orbit, The Defector and The Apollo Murders, now under contract to become a television series. A musician, Hadfield has also released an album called Space Sessions: Songs from a Tin Can. It is the first album to be recorded in space and includes the video version of David Bowie's "Space Oddity" that has been seen over 50 million times.