

Rich Leshner

Rich Leshner has been working in the DC space policy community for nearly two decades, with experience in the non-profit, government, and industry sectors. Rich's NASA experience had him working on international projects for collaboration in exploration, managing a \$150 million portfolio of innovative small business research, and working in the Administrator's office. He worked for two years at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he supported the development of the 2010 National Space Policy as well as championed reforms to more fully integrate commercial space capabilities into national programs. Since 2014 Rich has been at Planet, the small satellite Earth observation data and analytics company based in California. Rich was previously Planet's Vice President for Regulatory and Government Affairs, and is now the Executive Vice President of Operations for Planet Federal - Planet's subsidiary for work with the U.S. government. Rich has a MS in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Stanford, and a PhD in Public Policy and Public Administration from George Washington. He lives in DC with his wife and daughter.