

Application: 6202

Abel Avellan

Page: General Information
Provide information about the company to be considered for the award. If you will be nominating an individual, specify the nominee's employer.
Name of Organization/Company AST SpaceMobile
Mobile Phone Number +1 1432268807
Additional Contacts I would also like to have others receive emails about the disposition of our entries.
Page: Entry Information
Entry Title Abel Avellan
Category I10. Executive of the Year - Communication Technology
Executive Nominee Submission Format Written Answers

a. Briefly describe the nominated executive's employer: the organization's history and past performance (up to 200 words). Required

Abel Avellan is a trailblazing entrepreneur in the space and telecommunications markets, with over 25 years of industry leadership. He has devoted his life to one mission – to eliminate the digital divide and ensure everyone on Earth has access to broadband internet and the opportunities it provides.

In pursuit of this mission, Avellan founded AST SpaceMobile, the company building the first and only space-based cellular broadband network designed to connect directly to standard mobile phones, putting internet access directly in the hands of the billions around the world who remain unconnected today. He is democratizing access to information, building a communications bridge for the world.

Under his visionary leadership, AST SpaceMobile has forged strategic partnerships with over 50 mobile network providers globally, including AT&T, Verizon and Vodafone, and successfully launched five commercial satellites, the largest commercial communication arrays ever deployed in low Earth orbit. These achievements mark a transformative leap toward redefining the future of global connectivity on an unprecedented scale.

Avellan is more than just a successful executive; he is a true technology innovator. He personally holds 24 granted and pending patents in satellite communications, reflecting his deep technical expertise.

b. Outline the nominated executive's achievements since the beginning of 2023 that you wish to bring to the judges' attention (up to 250 words). Required

Since January 2023, Abel Avellan has led AST SpaceMobile through a groundbreaking phase of technical, commercial, and strategic advancements.

April 2023: Completed the first ever voice call from space to an everyday smartphone.

January 2024: Secured strategic investment from AT&T, Google and Vodafone amounting to \$155 million

September 2024: Successfully launched its first five BlueBird satellites, the largest commercial communication arrays ever deployed in low Earth orbit.

In 2024 Avellan's engineering genius was instrumental in AST SpaceMobile achieving numerous world-firsts including the first video call from space to standard mobile phones in the U.S., Europe, and Japan. These landmark achievements demonstrated the potential for widespread satellite connectivity using everyday devices.

February 2024: Avellan was appointed as a Commissioner to the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, demonstrating Avellan's influence extends well beyond the private sector and emphasizing his commitment not only to advancing technology but also to bridging the global digital divide.

January 2025: Avellan's vision accelerated once more with the company gaining FCC approval to test service with AT&T and Verizon customers.

January 2025: Celebrated becoming a \$2 billion company, less than 8 years after AST SpaceMobile's founding.

February 2025: Avellan facilitated a \$43 million contract with the U.S. Space Development Agency and garnered substantial regulatory backing from the FCC, enhancing AST SpaceMobile's capacity to collaborate with emergency services through FirstNet.

May 2025: Another milestone moment with the announcement that the stock price increased 1000% in a year

Abel Avellan is not just building satellites. He's building the future.

c. Explain why the achievements you have highlighted are unique or significant. If possible compare the achievements to the performance of other executives in your industry and/or to the nominee's past performance (up to 250 words). Required

Avellan is doing something that has never been achieved in the history of the world. He and his team at AST SpaceMobile are building the world's first and only space-based cellular broadband network that connects to everyday smartphones – no special equipment needed. Offering full broadband, users can access healthcare, education, and economic opportunities. This is a game-changer, one of its kind service, offering digital accessibility to billions of people currently out of reach of traditional networks.

With the largest commercial phased arrays in low Earth orbit, BlueBirds 1-5, AST SpaceMobile is redefining what's possible in global communications, having achieved a series of historic industry firsts — including the world's first demonstrated 5G connectivity and direct-to-device video calls from space. These unprecedented milestones are not only technological triumphs but also a validation of the company's bold vision. Backed by commercial agreements with more than 50 leading mobile network operators (MNOs) and plans for truly global coverage, AST SpaceMobile is uniquely positioned to close the digital divide for billions worldwide. Under Avellan's leadership, the company has transitioned from experimental trials to proven commercial capability, that others in the industry have yet to reach.

Compared to prior years, where focus was on proof-of-concept and regulatory groundwork, Avellan and AST SpaceMobile's recent achievements represent operational scale, commercial traction and global endorsement. His vision is not just to connect more people, but to redefine access to digital life as a basic human right, setting a new standard for impact in the satellite communications industry.

d. Reference any attachments of supporting materials throughout this nomination and how they provide evidence of the claims you have made in this nomination (up to 250 words). Optional

Abel Avellan is a rising thought leader and innovator in the telecommunications industry, which is further validated by a range of top-tier media coverage, press releases, regulatory filings, awards and conference appearances by Abel Avellan and AST SpaceMobile:

Featured in a Forbes Daily Cover story: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexknapp/2025/05/21/this-billionaire-immigrant-is-racing-elon-musk-to-connect-your-phone-from-space/>

Top tier interview and podcast appearances:

Bloomberg Technology: AST Spacemobile Strikes Deal With Verizon and AT&T to Rival SpaceX (05/30/2024)

Dead Zone Busting Satellites with AST SpaceMobile CEO Abel Avellan (09/16/24)

AST SpaceMobile Partners with Verizon with AST SpaceMobile CEO Abel Avellan (05/29/2024)

FCC approval for commercial testing: <https://feeds.issuerdirect.com/news-release.html?newsid=4671771884925451&symbol=ASTS>

Appointed Commissioner to the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission: AST SpaceMobile's Abel Avellan Appointed Commissioner to the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission (02/21/2024)

Announcements of strategic investments by AT&T, Google, Verizon, and Vodafone, plus a commercial agreement with AT&T, underscoring the trust in AST SpaceMobile's capabilities:

<https://feeds.issuerdirect.com/news-release.html?newsid=5955993905752097&symbol=ASTS>

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20240118463570/en/AST-SpaceMobile-Secures-Strategic-Investment-From-ATT-Google-and-Vodafone>

<https://about.att.com/story/2024/ast-spacemobile-commercial-agreement.html>

<https://www.cnn.com/2024/05/29/ast-spacemobile-verizon-satellite-internet.html>

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Supporting Document

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