



## **Monday Keynote – 8:30 AM: Leadership from Virgin Galactic’s Journey to Space**

### **Stephen Attenborough**

Stephen Attenborough joined Virgin Galactic in 2004 as its founding employee, where he laid the commercial foundation for the world’s first spaceflight. Over 18 years, he served as Commercial Director and Chief Customer Officer, responsible for guiding customers through the transformative journey of spaceflight. His experience in Virgin Galactic culminated in Richard Branson’s historic space trip and helped the company become the first human spaceflight organization to go public.

In his keynote, Stephen will share valuable lessons from his journey that resonate with the technology industry. He’ll address the delicate balance between driving innovation and ensuring safety – two key challenges for tech professionals navigating rapid change and regulatory demands. He will also speak to the art of managing financial and timeline expectations from stakeholders while facing unexpected technical and operational hurdles. Through the lens, Stephen will offer insights into maintaining stakeholder engagements and support, even in the face of contact unpredictability.

Finally, Stephen will provide a glimpse into one of the most exciting frontiers, sharing perspectives that inspire innovation and bold thinking, essential qualities for leaders in our industry.

#### Learning Objectives:

- Attendees will learn how to balance the drive for technological innovation with the need to ensure safety and compliance, essential for tech professionals working rapidly evolving and regulated industries.
- Participants will gain insights into managing financial and timeline expectations from various stakeholders, particularly when faced with unexpected technical and operational challenges.
- Participants will be inspired to adopt bold thinking and leadership approaches, drawing from Stephen Attenborough’s experiences in pushing the boundaries of human spaceflight and innovation.