

# Dr. Franck Marchis

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Astronomer | Citizen Science Advocate | Space Entrepreneur

📍 San Francisco Bay Area | 🌐 [www.cosmicdiary.org/fmarchis](http://www.cosmicdiary.org/fmarchis) | @AllPlanets

## SUMMARY

Astronomer and scientific entrepreneur with 25+ years of experience advancing planetary science, citizen astronomy, and decentralized space infrastructure. Founder and executive leader in two pioneering companies: Unistellar, creator of the world's largest smart telescope network; and SkyMapper, a decentralized platform integrating ground- and space-based assets to monitor the sky in real time. Proven expertise in adaptive optics, asteroid dynamics, planetary systems, and space situational awareness, with a record of peer-reviewed discoveries and global collaborations.

## EXPERIENCE

CEO & Co-Founder

SkyMapper Inc. — San Francisco CA, USA · Mar 2025–Present

- Leading the development of a decentralized observatory network combining over 15,000 smart telescopes with blockchain-based incentives.
- Built partnerships with the US Space Force, satellite insurers, and international space agencies.
- Deploying AI-powered tools for space domain awareness (SSA), asteroid characterization, and educational outreach.
- Spearheading integration of ground-based telescopes and future space-based cameras into a unified, autonomous monitoring system.

Chief Science Officer & Co-Founder

Unistellar Corp. — San Francisco, CA · Jun 2017–Present

- Co-invented and led the scientific vision behind the eVscope, used by 15,000+ citizen astronomers worldwide.
- Directed research campaigns on asteroid occultations, exoplanet transits, and transient phenomena.
- Co-authored several high-impact papers and enabled global citizen science participation in peer-reviewed discoveries.
- Facilitated strategic partnerships with SETI Institute, NASA, and other space agencies.

Astronomer & Director of Citizen Science

SETI Institute — Mountain View, CA · Jun 2010–Present

- Oversaw public engagement and Pro-Am collaborations in cutting-edge SETI and solar system, including planetary defense, research.
- Led scientific and artistic campaigns on SETI, and the study of the solar system.
- Conduct public outreach and education

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Planetary Science

Université Paul Sabatier – Toulouse, France · 2000

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Adaptive Optics / Astronomy

University of California, Berkeley · 2000–2003

M.Sc. in Astrophysics

Université Paul Sabatier – Toulouse, France · 1996

Fellowships:

- Ph.D. Fellowship, European Southern Observatory (ESO), Chile
- Cooperant Fellowship, ESO, Chile

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Marchis, F. et al. (2005). Discovery of the Triple Asteroidal System: 87 Sylvia. *Nature*.

Marchis, F. et al. (2006). The Low Density of Trojan Binary 617 Patroclus. *Nature*.

Marchis, F. et al. (2019). Unistellar EVscopes for Citizen Astronomy. *Acta Astronautica*.

Hanuš, J., Marchis, F. et al. (2017). Asteroid (130) Elektra Shape Model. *A&A*.

Marchis, F. et al. (2021). (216) Kleopatra: A Critically Rotating M-type Asteroid. *A&A*.

## TECHNOLOGIES & EXPERTISE

Adaptive Optics · Space Situational Awareness (SSA)

Smart Telescopes & Remote Observation Networks

AI for Astronomical Data Processing

Public Science Communication & Citizen Engagement for SETI

Deep collaborations with NASA, SETI Institute and other scientific institutions around the world

Blockchain & Web3 Infrastructure for Science