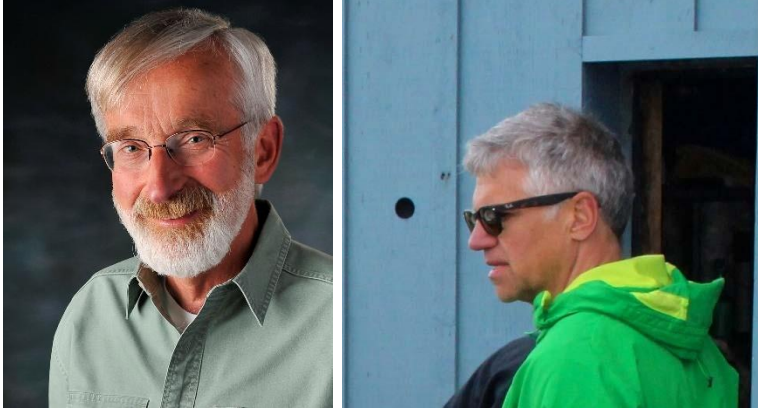




UAA College of Engineering
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE



UAA Professional
Development Seminar Series

Satellite Broadband- Opportunities and Challenges

Presented by Dr. Alex Hills (Distinguished Service Professor,
Carnegie Mellon University) and [Dr. Jens Munk](#) (Professor, UAA)

ABSTRACT: Alaskans have discovered satellite broadband service! Folks across our big state, particularly those in rural areas, are already using Starlink. One competitor (OneWeb) is also providing service to a few communities, and other companies, including Amazon and Telesat, aren't far behind. Drs. Hills and Munk will explain how this new satellite service works and how it is able to deliver broadband where it was not previously available – literally anywhere in the world! But as demand increases, to continue providing adequate broadband service, the satellite companies will need to change their constellations. This seminar's presenters will describe what satellite companies need to do to maintain adequate broadband service.

Dr. Alex Hills is Distinguished Service Professor of Engineering & Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University. At Carnegie Mellon, Professor Hills conceived and built the world's first Wi-Fi network. He tells that story in his book *Wi-Fi and the Bad Boys of Radio*. In Alaska Alex is well known for his role in developing the state's broadcast and telecommunications systems. He worked in the 1970s and 1980s to build public radio stations across Alaska and to develop the state's telecommunications networks so that even small villages could receive television and telephone service. This story is in his book *Finding Alaska's Villages: And Connecting Them*.

In his 50 years in Alaska, Alex had time to do a few other things, too. He was the founding general manager of KSKA, Anchorage's first public radio station, a professor at UAF, a University of Alaska vice president, and a distinguished visiting professor in Singapore, New Zealand, and Chile. An inventor with 17 patents, he is a Fellow of the IEEE, a member of the Alaska Innovators Hall of Fame, and he has been named Alaska's Engineer of the Year. In 2014 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Friday, September 26, 2025

11:45 am - 12:45 pm

EIB 211 or Online Via [YouTube Live](#)