Gennaro Russo, is presently Space & Defence manager of the DAC, the Aerospace District of Campania Region. He is member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), vice-president of the Italian Institute for the Future (IIF) and director general of its Center for Near Space (CNS). He is co-founder and president of Trans-Tech srl, an SME devoted to technology transfer and disruptive concepts design as the "Hyplane" hypersonic jet.

He worked at CIRA, the Italian Aerospace Research Center, for some 25 years managing space programs, projects and facilities. At the beginning of his career, he worked for about ten years with the Microgravity Research Team led by Luigi G. Napolitano at University of Naples. He holds a Doctoral Degree in Aerospace Engineering obtained at University Sapienza of Rome.