



PRESS RELEASE

- For immediate release -

61st International Astronautical Congress (IAC) to open in Prague, Czech Republic

IAF PR 06-2010, 17 September 2010 – IAC 2010 will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 27 September to 1 October 2010 under the theme: "Space for human benefit and exploration". The Congress is the world's premier international space gathering attracting every year heads of space agencies, industry executives and experts to discuss the latest advancements in space technology and exploration, as well as the newest political and economical developments in the space sector. This year again, more than 2500 delegates are expected at the Prague Congress Centre. The last day of the Congress, 1 October, focusing on the Eastern European countries will be open to the general public and free of charge.

Over the course of the Congress, 1706 quality papers will be presented in a rich and varied technical programme of 162 sessions. In addition, the public programme will include 8 plenaries, 4 highlight lectures and 3 late breaking news sessions. Business to business opportunities are offered the International Exhibition with 61 exhibitors and the expanded 2nd International Cluster Forum. The 2010 UN-IAF Workshop and the 2nd International Meeting for Members of Parliament are also part of a supporting series of events in Prague.

▪ Public Programme

Plenary 1 (27 September): Heads of Agency Plenary plenary (with Charles Bolden (NASA), Jean-Jacques Dordain (ESA), Anatoly Perminov (Roscosmos), K. Radhakrishnan (ISRO), and Keiji Tachikawa (JAXA))

Plenary 2 (28 September): Impact of Governments' Space Policy Changes on Industry (exploring the impact on industry of major government space policy changes across the globe and featuring key actors from agencies and industry)

Plenary 3 (28 September): Never Lost Again (talking about the worldwide importance of satellite navigation systems to the public, to industry and to the military)

Plenary 4 (29 September): Global Sea Level Rise and Its Societal Impacts (panel discussion addressing the concerns of 146 million people worldwide who live within 1 metre of mean high water)

Plenary 5 (29 September): Next Generation Visions For Space Operations (pursuing a dialogue among advanced graduate students and young professionals - all share their vision for future space operations)

Plenary 6 (30 September): Advancing the Global Exploration Strategy (introducing the International Space Exploration Coordination Group whereby agencies will work together to explore the Moon, Mars and nearby asteroids, expanding the frontier where humans will someday live and work)

Plenary 7 (30 September): ISS Research – A Decade of Progress and a Decade of Promise (celebrating the International Space Station's hosting of research from the international science community for over ten years)

Plenary 8 (1 October): Czech Space Visions (talking about the country's rich astronomical heritage making both observations made in-situ and numerical experiments performed on large supercomputers)

The four highlight lectures will include the following topics: Overview of space activities in South Africa;



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Origins, Surprises and Future of GPS; SETI Progress and Prospects; Chandrayaan-1 and Water on the Moon.

In addition to the plenaries and highlight lectures, there will be three Late Breaking News sessions on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

- **International Space Exhibition and 2nd International Cluster Forum**

As a vital accompaniment to the 61st International Astronautical Congress, the **international space exhibition** this year will take place at the Prague Conference Centre and will last all week. Representatives from the world's space industry from companies to agencies will be represented on 44 stalls. The exhibition will be open every day of IAC 2010.

The IAF will be once again organising the 2nd **International Cluster Forum** within the Exhibition area. This year, the Cluster Forum has a schedule of events over four days in a dedicated zone. The forum gathers decision-makers and business developers from major corporations, large and small space agencies, smaller businesses, consulting firms and universities. Featured topics are as follows: Industry Day – dedicated to companies and associations of industry (Tuesday); Nanosatellite event & fair (Wednesday); When experts meet the young generation/Career orientation forum (Thursday), and Focus on Central and Eastern European countries Space activities (Friday)

- **20th UN/IAF Workshop**

Preceding the IAC, the **20th UN/IAF Workshop** entitled "GNSS Applications for Human Benefit and Development" will be held on 24 and 25 September 2010. This Workshop is co-sponsored by the European Space Agency, the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic. The Workshop, taking place in Prague, is especially pertinent given the Czech involvement in the European Galileo project. A Plenary and Highlight Lecture are both dedicated to GNSS this year, following up the Workshop.

- **2nd International meeting of Members of Parliament**

The 2nd **International meeting of Members of Parliament** will be held on 26 September on the subject of "Space in support of the management of natural disaster". Many members of parliament from around the world will meet heads of space offices in central and eastern Europe and agencies from developing space-faring countries such as Slovenia, Mexico, Estonia, South Africa, Romania, Thailand, etc.

- **Other Events**

Other events include the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) Academy Day; young professionals and student programmes; the Space Educator Professional Development Workshop, the 19th Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, organised annually by the International Institute of Space Law; and the Space Generation annual conference.

Detailed information can be found at www.iafastro.org/congress.

- **Media registration**

Media representatives wishing to attend are strongly encouraged to register in advance by 20 September 2010, to avoid delays at the Congress venue. The form and other information is available on the IAF website at www.iafastro.org/mediacentre. For more information on press accreditation, please contact Juliane McCarty: juliane.mccarty@iafastro.org

Media representatives already at the Congress venue on Sunday 26 September are be invited to assemble at 17:30 hours in a dedicated area of the Prague Congress Centre for a briefing on the related press activities.