IAC 2020
Call for Special Session Proposals

The International Programme Committee of IAC 2020 solicits proposals for Special Sessions (SpS) within the technical scope of the congress.

IAC 2020 Special Sessions will supplement the regular Technical Programme of the congress and provide a sample of the state-of-the-art research or development in both academia and industry in special, novel, challenging and emerging topics in the field of space. Special Sessions that emphasize on multidisciplinary and transversal aspects, as well as cutting-edge topics are especially encouraged and welcome.

**How to Apply**

- Prospective organizers of special sessions should submit proposals using the online IAF submission system, accessible through the website www.iafastro.net

- Before submitting your proposal, please take a look to the IAC 2020 technical programme to try to prevent content overlap: [https://iafastro.directory/iac/browse/IAC-20/catalog-technical-programme](https://iafastro.directory/iac/browse/IAC-20/catalog-technical-programme)

- Notification of acceptance will be sent to the organizers on 11-12 April 2020.

- Organizers are allowed to edit their proposals before the submission deadline.

**Selection Process**

- Special Sessions proposals will be evaluated by the IPC Steering Group for acceptance based on the following criteria:
  - Multidisciplinary topic
  - Novelty and originality of the topic
  - Innovative format
  - Focus on audience engagement
  - Quality of contents
  - Qualification and experience of the organizers
  - Relevance to the IAC Congress Theme
Workshops differ from technical sessions in that they are targeted to small audiences with a focus on audience participation (e.g. question and answer sessions and group work). Workshops offer a platform for presenting novel ideas in a more interactive way than the other tracks.

Panels are sessions that include a group of experts invited to debate a topic or reflect on their diverse experiences through interaction with audience. Panel sessions are not to be considered as paper sessions consisting of a set of talks by experts, but rather motivate debates and interaction among panelists and the audience.

Group discussions are sessions that facilitate the attendees to discuss a theme or topic with the moderation of the session organizer. Group discussions can be semi-structured or structured around a set of questions and can be formal or informal in nature. They can also provide opportunities for the group to do more in-depth questioning of the people organizing the discussion and promote interaction between local interest groups by bringing together people who can develop new ways to function and interact with each other.

Open option: We also welcome the submission of other formats as long as the organizer(s) provide a convincing rationale and structure related to the aim and theme of the IAC 2020.

The person who submits the proposal is called the Session Leader and will be the main interface with the IAF Secretariat.

The SpS Organizer(s)’ role is to invite the speakers, provide the session inputs for the Final Programme and lead the session.

The SpS Facilitator (if any) role is to helps the audience and the panelists understand their common objectives and assists them to plan to achieve those goals without taking a particular position in the discussion.

There is no financial subsistence provided for session organizers and invitees. All IAC participants are required to register and pay the registration fee corresponding to their category.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Call for Special Sessions: 22 November 2019 - 13 February 2020
- SpS selection: 24-26 March 2020
- Proposal acceptance notification: 11-12 April 2020
- Notification of scheduling: 23-24 April 2020
- Congress dates: 12-16 October 2020

CONTACT

Should you have any questions about Special Sessions, you can contact us at sps@iafastro.org