INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION

2027 IPMC Young Professionals Leadership Development Programme at the 78th IAC

Poznań, Poland

Sunday September 26th, 2027

Deadline EXTENDED - November 11th, 2026

Call for Delegate Nominations for the 2027 IPMC Young Professionals Leadership Development Programme

Goal: The IAF's International Project/Programme Management Committee (IPMC) strives to support a better inclusion of Young Professionals in the international space industry and the development of the next generation workforce. Every year, the IPMC organizes the Leadership Development Programme for Young Professionals, with the goal to collect findings and recommendations that can help bridge the generational gap in the workplace and improve the way projects are collectively executed.

We would like your organization to nominate delegates for this Programme and represent their views in this international forum. The nominations shall be sent to the Organizing Committee at ipmc.yp.workshop@gmail.com by **Wednesday November 11th, 2026**. Nominations shall include all of the following:

- Name of the IAF-affiliated entity nominating the Young Professional(s)
- Name, Surname, Job Title and email address of the person nominating the Young Professional(s)
- Name, Surname and email address of the nominated Young Professional(s)
- Short endorsement message to support the nomination and highlight the candidate(s)' key
- strengths
- Confirmation that each nominated Young Professional has been granted preliminary authorization (and will be financially supported) for the registration, travel and attendance to the Programme Final Event at the 78th IAC in Poznań, Poland
- Attachments: CV and Motivation Letter for each nominated Young Professional. The Motivation Letter shall include an indication of the Young Professional's preferred topic.

Eligible delegates would fit the profile of a young professional. Young professionals are typically defined as being under 35 years and having at least one to two years of experience on a project team and/or in the aerospace industry. A diversity of backgrounds (e.g., engineering, management, science, etc.) is encouraged in order to produce thoughtful and well-rounded observations and recommendations that will be presented to the IPMC and IAF community.

Selected delegates are expected to take part in the remote / online Programme activities, and to attend the Programme's Final Event in person, as well as the International Astronautical Congress (IAC). The delegates will be assigned to teams working fully online on the Programme topics until the day of the final event. To each team, a mentor will be assigned to support the working group advance in their research. The kickoff meeting is foreseen **by the end of November 2026**. Online attendance of the selected delegates is required.

For the 2027 Leadership Development Programme, **five topics** have been defined:

AI-Enabled Knowledge Management in Space Organizations – How can AI be responsibly and effectively integrated into Knowledge Management in space organizations? Which capabilities should be developed at organizational level, which could be shared at national or sector level, and which require common standards or infrastructure?

Managing Risk and Uncertainty in Space Projects – How can Project and Program Managers identify, evaluate and respond to changing risks and uncertainties before they significantly affect project performance? How should volatility and uncertainty be incorporated into cost estimates, schedules, contingencies, reserves, contractual arrangements and decisions?

International collaboration: searching for balance between sovereignty and cooperation – How can countries and space organizations determine which capabilities should remain sovereign, what criteria should be used to identify them, which dependencies are acceptable and manageable, and which areas would benefit most from international cooperation?

Managing Interfaces and Interoperability Across Complex Space Programmes – How can Project and Program Managers work with systems engineering teams to manage technical, organizational, contractual and data interfaces throughout the complete project lifecycle?

Constructive Challenge and Decision-Making in Space Projects – How can space project leaders create an environment in which employees — including Young Professionals — can question assumptions, communicate concerns and challenge decisions constructively, while maintaining clear accountability and timely execution?

The Young Professionals Leadership Development Programme culminates in a one-day in-person event where delegates present their results to the IPMC and a wider IAC audience. This final meeting is held in connection with the 78th IAC, which will enable delegates to interact with senior professionals and field experts. Delegates will also have a chance to submit their results to the IAF paper selection process and – if successful – present their paper in the appropriate IAC Technical Session.

For more details on the Programme, the topics, and expected workload, please see the Statement of Work.

Please note that registration to the 78th IAC and in-person attendance to the Final Event are required to participate in the Programme.
Also note that the YP Leadership Development Programme organization does not provide grants for delegates to attend the Final Event and the IAC, nor does the IAF. Delegates are responsible for their own funding. Nominating organizations are strongly encouraged to financially support their delegates.

Additional information on the IAF, IPMC and IAC can be found at IAF as well as IAC 2027. Questions on the Young Professionals Leadership Development Programme can be addressed to ipmc.yp.workshop@gmail.com

Kind Regards,
2027 IPMC Young Professionals Organizing Committee
ipmc.yp.workshop@gmail.com