



**INTERNATIONAL
ASTRONAUTICAL
FEDERATION**

2026 IPMC Young Professionals Leadership Development Programme at the 77th IAC

Antalya, Turkey

Sunday October 4th, 2026

Call for Delegate Nominations for the 2026 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 Workshop Organizing Committee at ipmc.y.p.workshop@gmail.com by **Friday October 17th, 2025**. 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 77th IAC in Antalya, Turkey
- 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 age 35 and under 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 2025**. Online attendance of the selected delegates is required.

For the 2026 Leadership Development Programme, **five topics** have been defined:

Project lifecycle and schedule management – How does schedule management change throughout the entire lifecycle of a space project? Which techniques and strategies can be applied to schedule around unknowns and risks? What can we learn from past space projects in terms of good schedule management?

Change management and communication for impact – How can Project Managers integrate change management and communication for impact practices into their day-by-day, to help their team navigate the inevitable adjustments and modifications they will have to face throughout the project? Which are the best ways to incorporate feedback loops in a change process and make sure project personnel is included and onboarded? What are the best field-proven ways to measure the effectiveness of change management and good communication?

Sustainability and Lifecycle Thinking in Project Management – How can space organizations incorporate environmental, orbital debris and end-of-life considerations into project management frameworks? What tangible impacts (positive or negative) arise from integrating sustainability and lifecycle thinking into space products, missions and project planning? Which role can Young Professionals – and project teams at large – play in deploying environmentally-savvy choices and solutions?

Programme Governance across Multi-Nation Collaborations – Which are the motivators that – in the current volatile geopolitical scenario – still result in international cooperation in the space field? How can governance frameworks evolve to better handle distributed teams, national policies, and conflicting objectives in international missions? What happens to international programme governance when at least one of the involved parties is an emerging spacefaring nation?

The Role of Supply Chain Resilience in Project Success – How can space programs ensure resilience and flexibility in their supply chain? Which are the pros and cons of diversification in the supply base for specialized space components? What is the level of influence and authority that a Project or Program Manager can exercise on the supplier ecosystem?

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 77th 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 77th IAC and in-person attendance to the Final Event are required to fully 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 2026](#). Questions on the Young Professionals Leadership Development Programme can be addressed to ipmc.yf.workshop@gmail.com

Kind Regards,
2026 IPMC Young Professionals Workshop Organizing Committee
ipmc.yf.workshop@gmail.com