



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAF President, Jean-Yves Le Gall Highlights the Main IAC 2017 Events

In presence of Hon. Martin Hamilton-Smith, the South Australian Minister for Space and Defence Industries, one day prior to the official opening of the 68th International Astronautical Congress, on Sunday 24 September 2017, IAF President, Jean-Yves Le Gall gathered the press to present the overall programme of the congress as well as the main events to attend.

First, Dr. Le Gall draw the attention to the exceptionally dense programme of the IAC 2017 with 8 plenaries, 3 Highlight Lectures and 2 Late Breaking News, around 200 technical sessions to be presented in the Technical Programme covering the fields of, among many others, Science and Exploration, Technology and Space Society, and over 40 events from all types of industries and countries to be taking place at the Global Networking Forum. In addition, he mentioned a few companies which will be present at the IAC 2017 Exhibition such as Chinese Society of Astronautics and the United Arab Emirates Space Agency.

Afterwards, Dr. Le Gall mentioned a key point of his IAF Global Innovation Agenda 2016-2019: Diversity. Indeed, in the purpose of being an exemplary organisation in terms of geographical, generational, gender and any other diversity aspects, and live up to its motto Connecting @ll Space People, the IAF President has created the IDEA platform (International Platform for Diversity and Equality in Astronautics) which allows the Federation to plan a series of events that promote diversity. Dr. Le Gall warmly invited the press to two breakfasts to be held in Adelaide during the IAC week. The first one will focus on the historic events in mankind's future related to exploration; the second one will be a joint breakfast with Women in Aerospace – Europe (WIA-E).

Finally, the press was invited not to miss some major highlights of the IAC 2017 such as Charles Bolden's lecture on how to grow opportunities for International Cooperation in Science and Astronautics, Bill Nye's talk on the inspiring story of LightSail®, a solar sailing spacecraft that became a global phenomenon and of course, Elon Musk's update on his plans to go to Mars.

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