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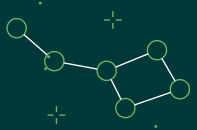
Meet the Lithuanian Space Ecosystem at the International Astronautical Congress



- Associated member of the European Space Agency since 2021.

- Lithuania contributions to ESA programmes:

1 General Support Technology Programme;

2 Future EO;

3 ARTES ScyLight.

- ESA Business Incubation Centre was established in 2023 with the goal of incubating **25** startups by 2027.

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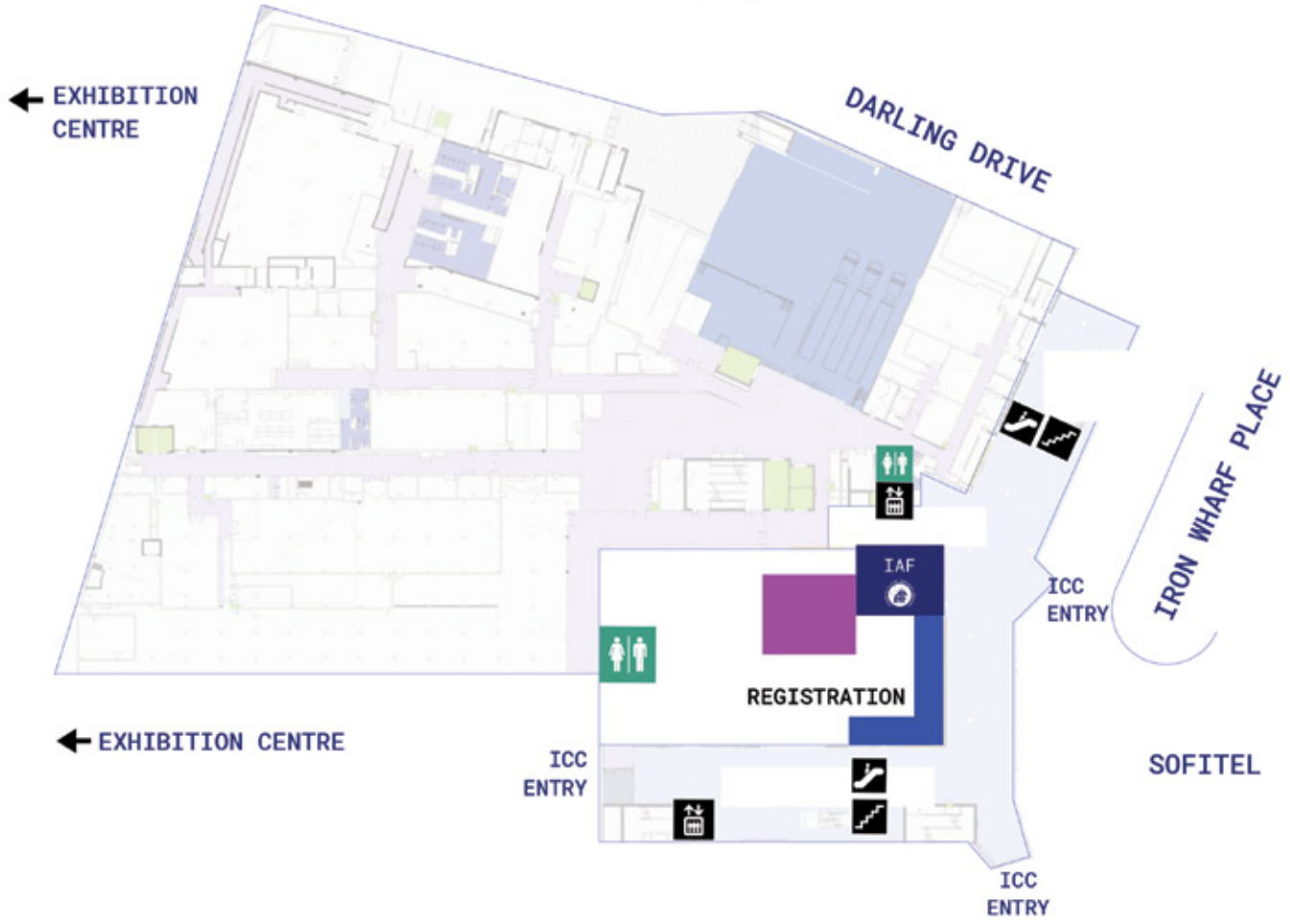
Floor plans

ICC CONVENTION CENTRE
GROUND FLOOR

LEGEND

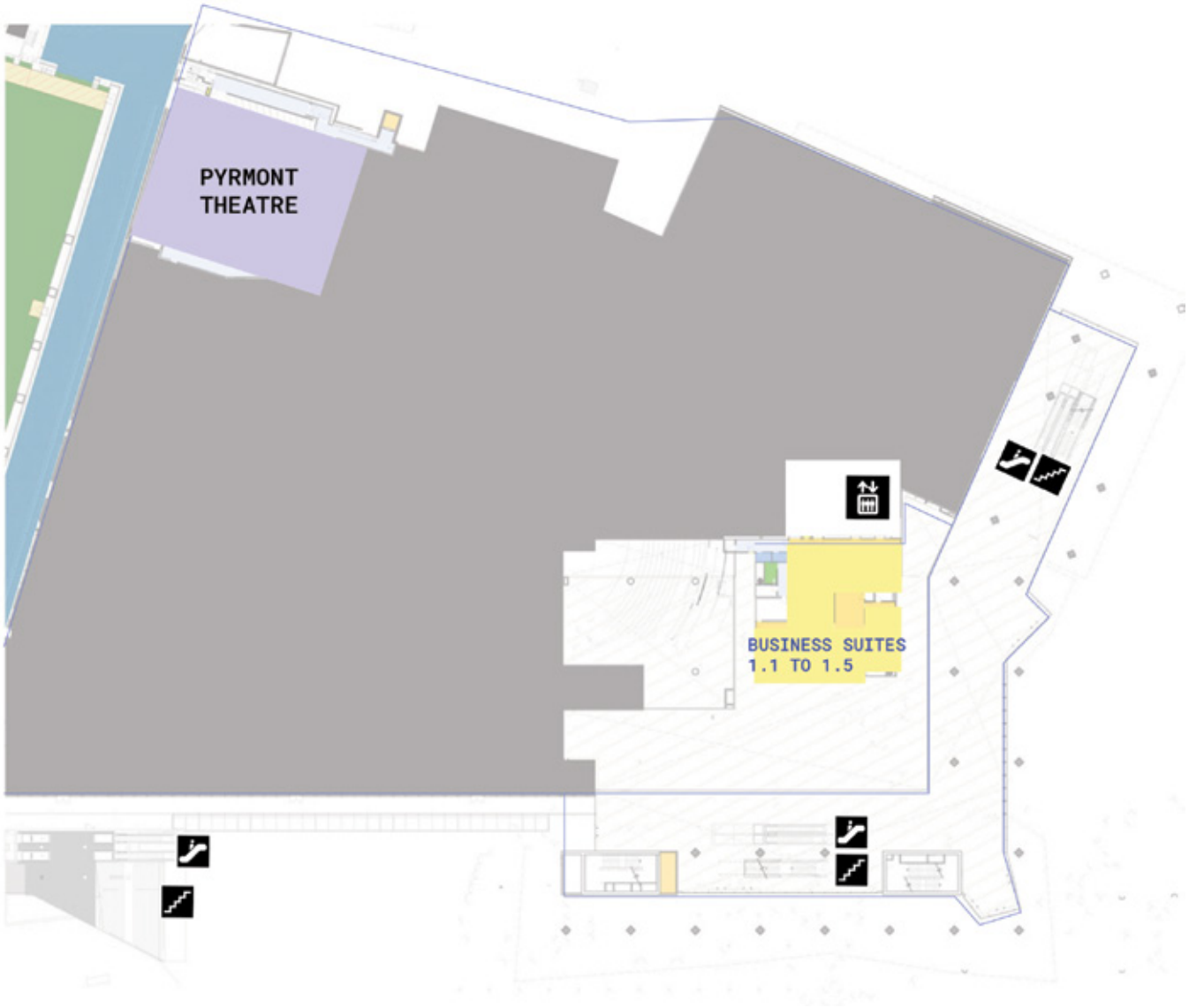
ELEVATORS
ESCALATORS
REGISTRATION
STAIRS
TOILETS
IAF SECRETARIAT
SPEAKERS PREPARATION CENTRE



ICC CONVENTION CENTRE
LEVEL 1

LEGEND

ELEVATORS
ESCALATORS
BUSINESS SUITES
STAIRS
TOILETS



ICC CONVENTION CENTRE
LEVEL 2

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ELEVATORS
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THE GALLERY
PARKSIDE 2
STAIRS
DARLING HARBOUR THEATRE
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COCKLE BAY 1 & 2

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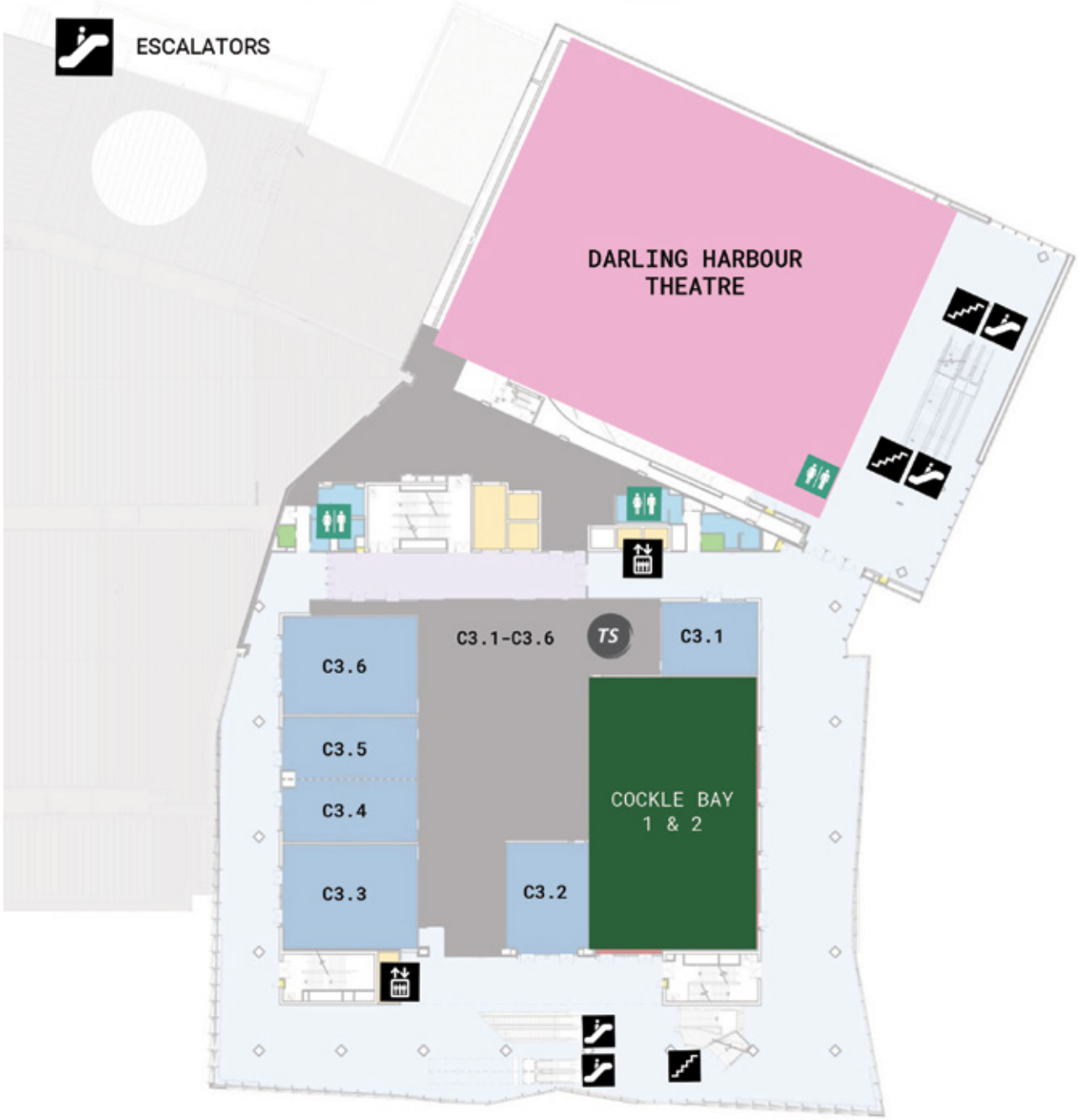
ESCALATORS



ICC CONVENTION CENTRE
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LEGEND

ELEVATORS
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SPECIAL SESSION ROOM
STAIRS
DARLING HARBOUR THEATRE
TECHNICAL SESSION ROOMS
ESCALATORS

ICC CONVENTION CENTRE
LEVEL 5

LEGEND

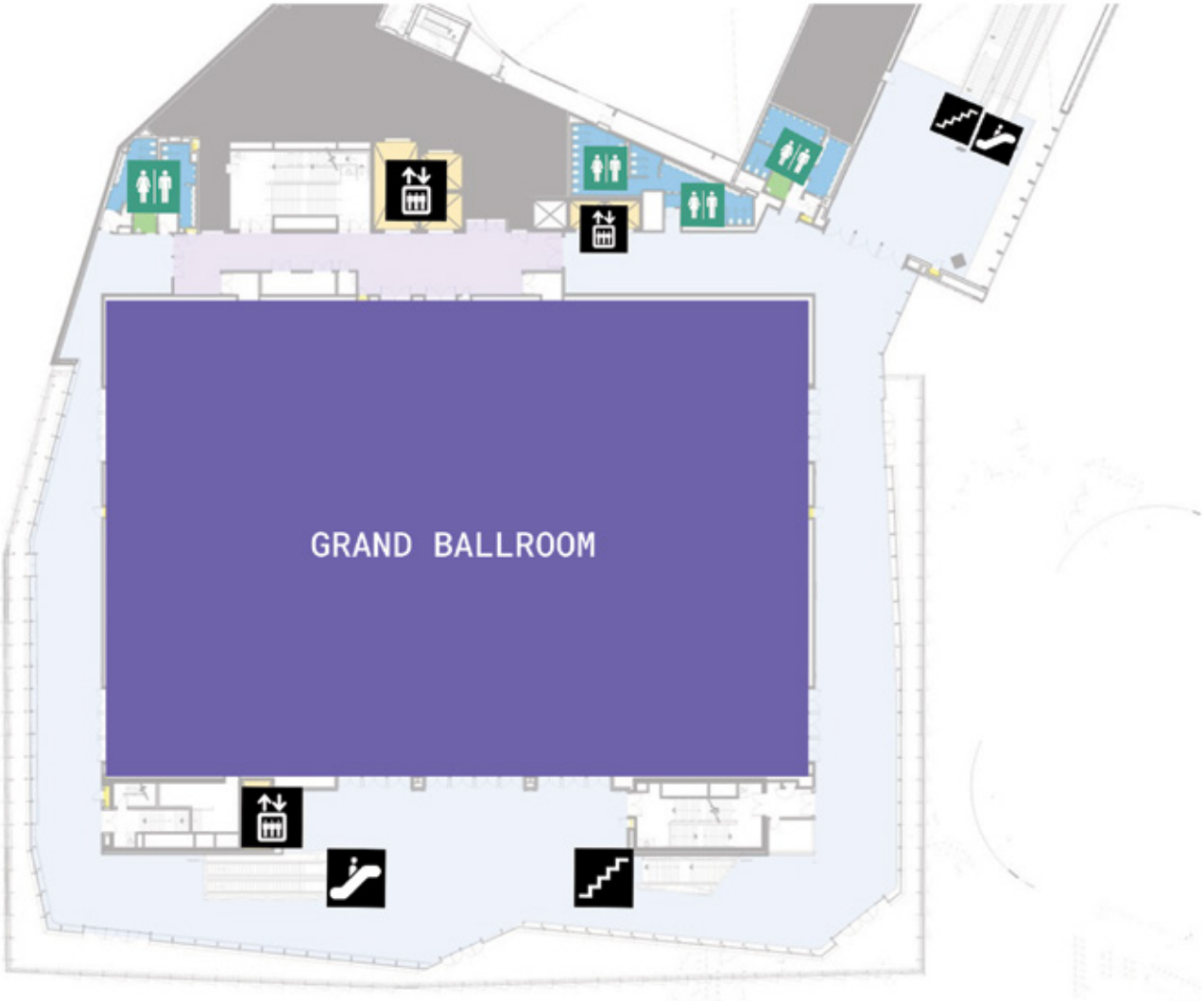
ELEVATORS

TOILETS

STAIRS

GRAND BALLROOM

ESCALATORS



ICC EXHIBITION CENTRE
LEVEL 1

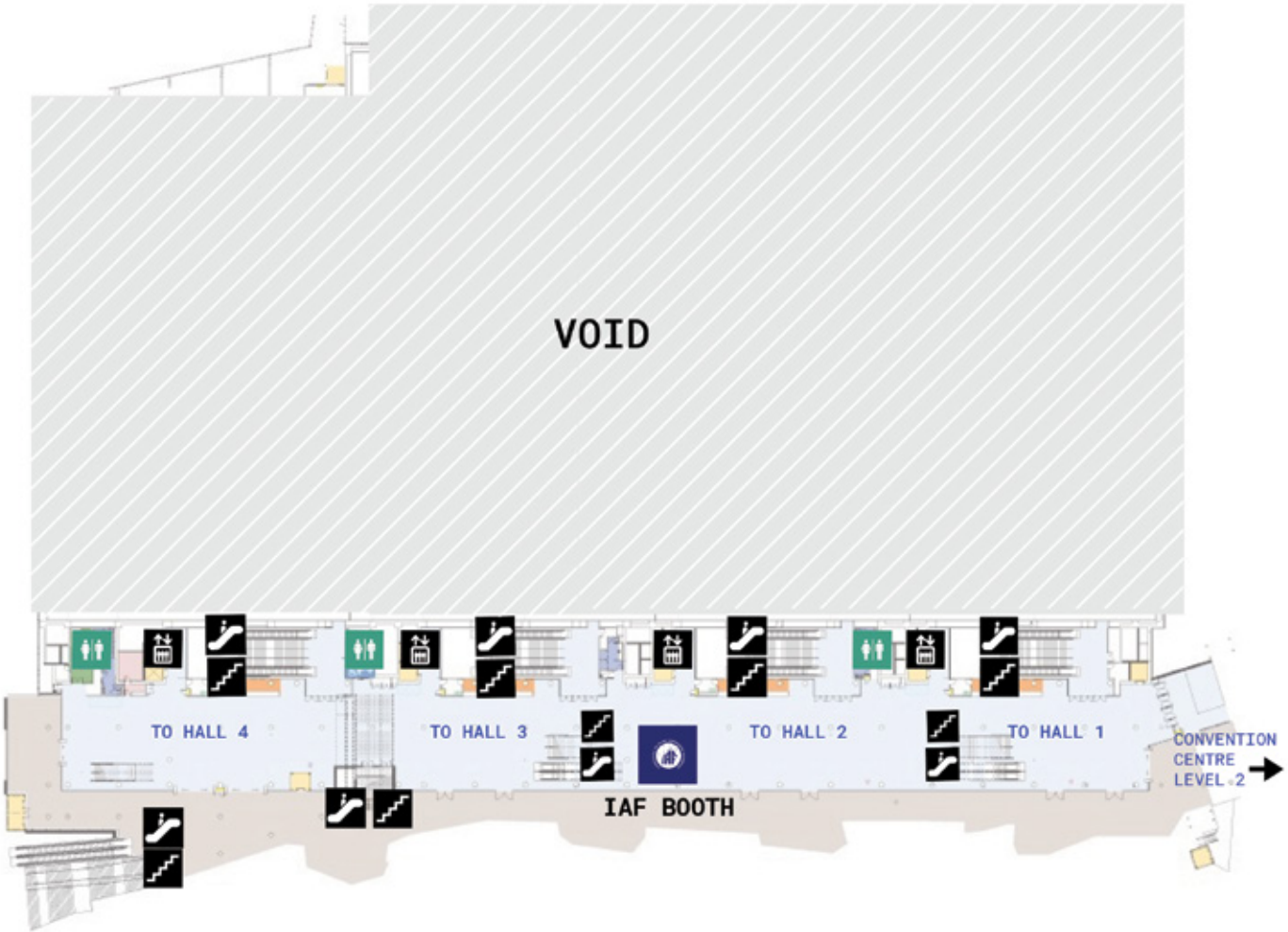
LEGEND

ELEVATORS
TOILETS
EXHIBITION HALLS
STAIRS
ESCALATORS

ICC EXHIBITION CENTRE
LEVEL 2

LEGEND

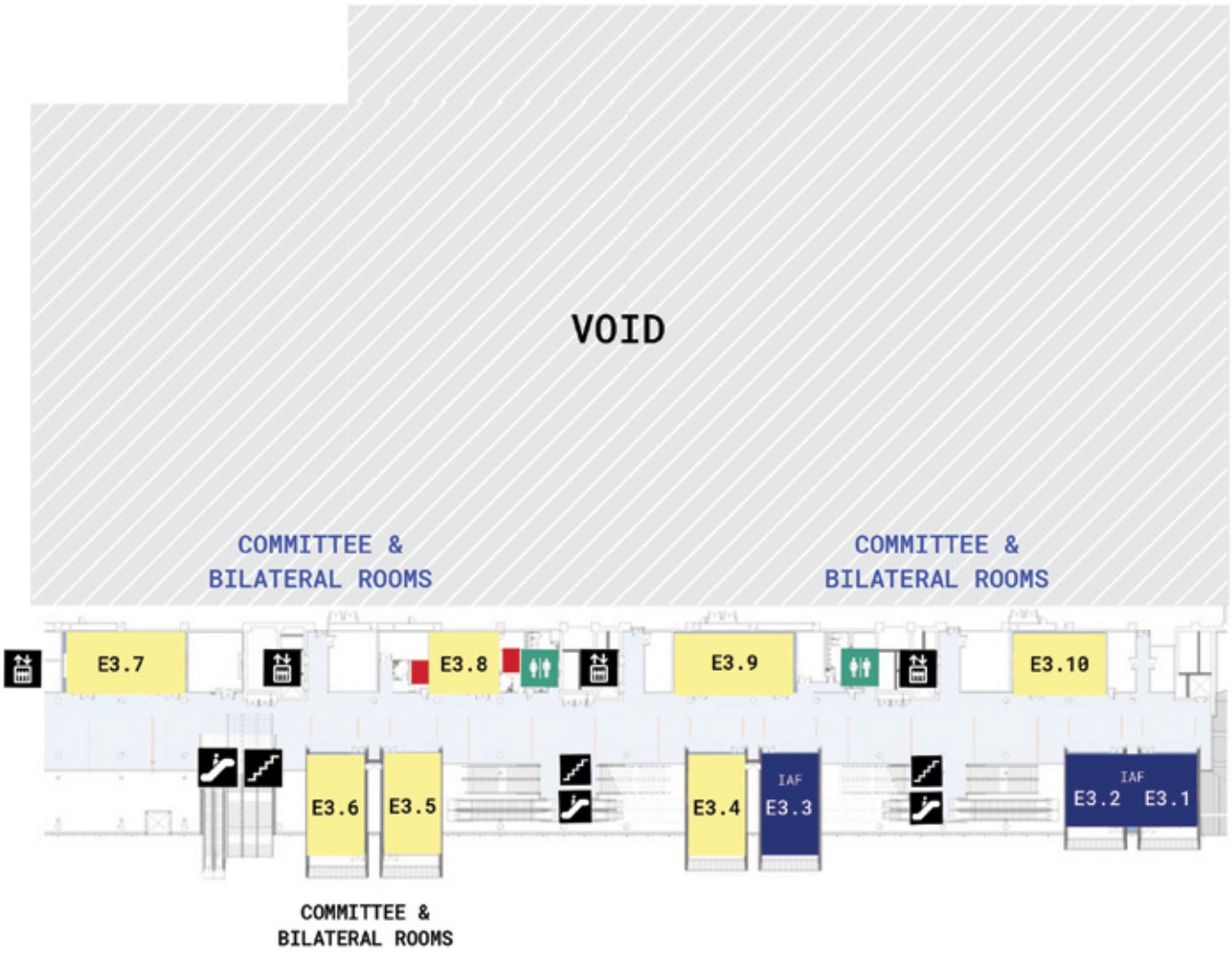
ELEVATORS
TOILETS
VOID
STAIRS
ESCALATORS
IAF BOOTH



ICC EXHIBITION CENTRE
LEVEL 3

LEGEND

ELEVATORS
TOILETS
COMMITTEE & BILATERAL MEETING ROOMS
STAIRS
VOID
IAF OFFICES
ESCALATORS
PRAYER ROOMS



ICC EXHIBITION CENTRE
LEVEL 5

LEGEND

ELEVATORS
TOILETS
COMMITTEE & BILATERAL MEETING ROOMS
STAIRS
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PRESS/ MEDIA ROOMS
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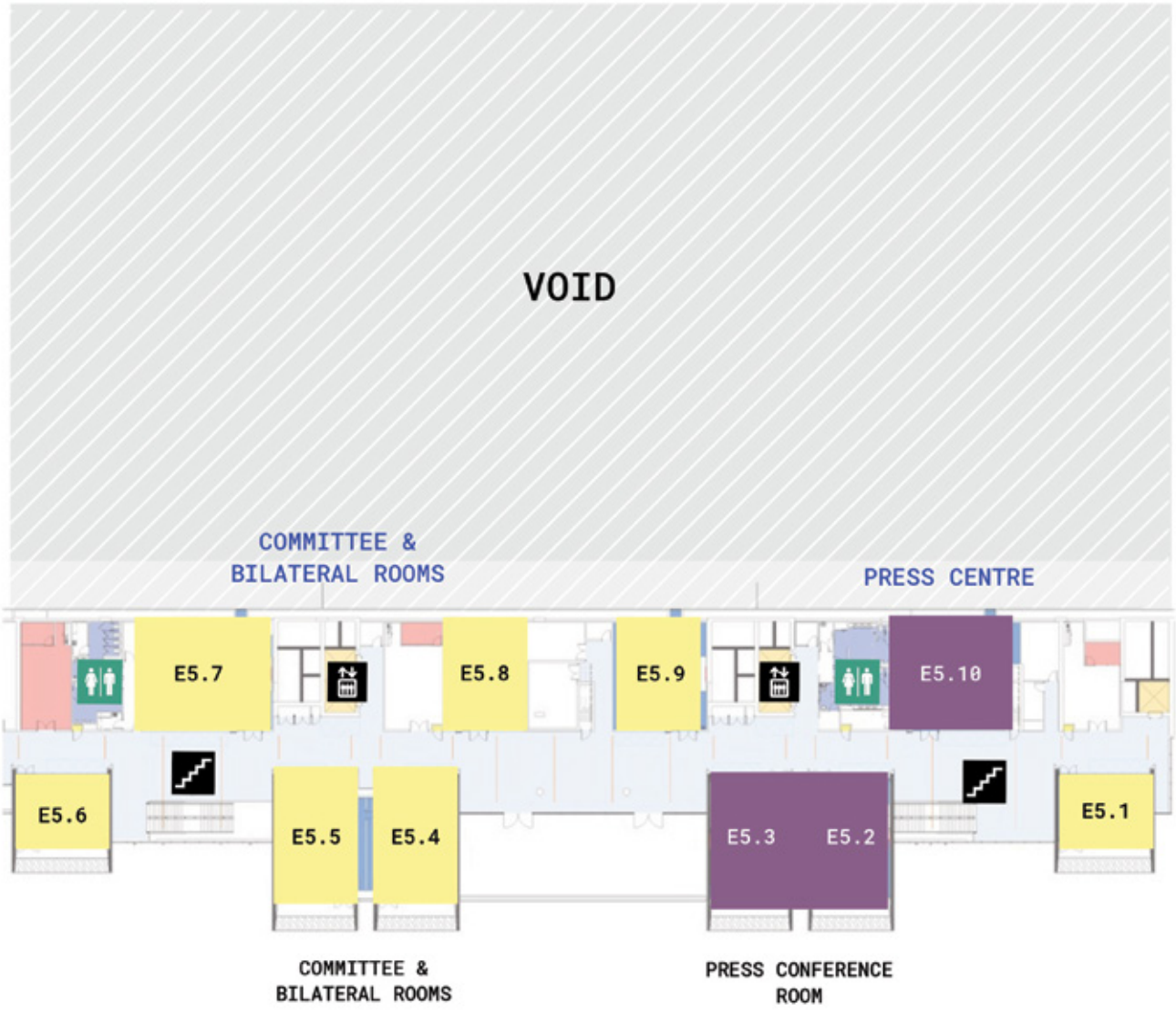


1 Students and Young Professionals Events

1.1 2025 IPMC Young Professional Workshop

Date: **Sunday 28 September 2025**
Time: **09:00 – 16:45 AEST**
Venue: **Room C3.6, Level 3, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney**

Sponsored by: COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

What role will Young Professionals play in shaping the future of the space sector? Join the 2025 IAF IPMC Young Professionals Workshop: Open Door Session, where Subject Experts and Young Professionals will share fresh insights and innovative solutions on project management, AI, business innovation, people management, and more.

This is your chance to:

- Engage with today's and tomorrow's leaders of the space industry
- Exchange ideas across generations
- Hear real-world examples and lessons from successful projects

This year's agenda will focus on:

- Enhancing Emotional Intelligence for Project Success to Maximize Collaboration Etiquette in 21st-Century Global Space Involvement
- Space Organizations Balancing Innovation and Risk - Turning Risk into Progress
- Exploring the Interplay Between Technical Authority and Project Management to Reduce the Cost of Spacecraft
- AI in Space Project Management: Current Applicability and Future Roadmap

Time	Morning Session, closed doors (registered attendees only)
08:00 – 08:45	IAC registration (badges are MANDATORY to enter the venue)
09:00 – 09:15	Workshop welcome address
09:15 – 10:00	Keynote speaker
10:00 – 11:45	YP Team work
11:45 – 12:00	Rules and guidelines for the presentations
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch & Group Photo
	Afternoon Session, Plenary (general audience allowed)
13:30 – 14:15	Team 1 presentation & debate
14:15 – 15:00	Team 2 presentation & debate
15:00 – 15:15	Break
15:00 – 15:15	Team 3 presentation & debate
15:15 – 16:00	Team 4 presentation & debate
16:45 – 17:00	Wrap-up & closure

1.2 Young Professionals Networking Event

Sunday 28 September 2025

19:00 – 21:00 AEST **YPP Opening Reception** - Room Cockle Bay, Level 3, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney (For Young Professionals Only)

Tuesday 30 September 2025

19:00 – 21:00 AEST **YPP Reception – The IAF Workforce Development/Young Professionals Programme Committee (WD/YPP)** invites all IAC 2025 Young Professional delegates to speed networking session! This is your opportunity to meet leaders in the industry and have focused conversations around career development by rotating through tables with mentors. After speed networking, you will have another opportunity to more informally network with all of the mentors.

The event will be followed by a cocktail-style networking event - Room Cockle Bay, Level 3, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney (For Young Professionals Only)

Wednesday 1 October 2025

19:00 – 21:00 AEST **YPP Reception – Join the Young Professionals NextGen Plenary session, Resource Responsibility: Lands, Oceans, and Space**, where a dynamic panel of students and early-career professionals will explore how space-based technologies and frameworks can support more responsible and sustainable resource use on Earth and beyond. From enabling better stewardship of our oceans, forests, and farmlands through satellite data, to applying lessons from Earth's international resource governance to the emerging domain of space mining and lunar resource management, this session will highlight bold ideas and fresh perspectives.

The event will be followed by a cocktail-style networking event - Room Cockle Bay, Level 3, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney (For Young Professionals Only).

Organizers:

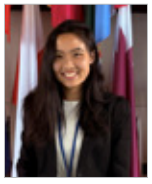
Uma CLADELLAS SANJUAN
Astrophysicist, Space Technical Writer,
Serco,
Spain

Leonard DE GUZMAN
Regional Lead, Americas,
Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO),
United States

Kangsan KIM (Antonio STARK)
Global Space Policy and Strategy Expert,
ispace, inc,
Republic of Korea

Speakers:

Zsófia BIRÓ
Innovation Lead, Research Fellow; NPoC for Hungary,
University of Pécs; Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) ,
Hungary



Sui CHEN
PhD Candidate in Aerospace Engineering,
Politecnico di Milano
Italy

ULRIKE NOSTITZ
Associate Consultant,
Analysys Mason,
Ireland

Iliass TANOUTI
VP Delivery & Customer Success,
constellr,
Space Lead,
Je M'Engage Pour L'Afrique,
Marocco

1.3 IAF Grant and Recognition Programmes for Students and YPs

1.3.1 IAF Young Space Leaders (YSL) Recognition Programme

The IAF Young Space Leaders Recognition Programme is awarded to exceptional students and young professionals, who contribute to astronautics in their academic or early careers, reach out to other young people and their communities to share knowledge and experiences, have been engaged with the international space community and contribute to IAF activities.

The 2025 IAF Young Space Leaders were chosen by a selection committee during the IAF Spring Meetings in March. They will be presented with their award during the Closing Ceremony of the 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025) in Sydney, Australia.

Hannah ASHFORD
Co-Founder & Managing Director
Karman Project
Australia

Hannah Ashford is a non-profit director and lawyer working to unite global decision-makers to drive urgent, collaborative action for a sustainable and peaceful future in space. As the Managing Director of The Karman Project, Hannah works with public and private sector space leaders from 65+ nations worldwide, facilitating forums for strategic dialogue and international cooperation. Hannah leads the foundation's strategic growth, including their flagship Fellowship program and United Nations policy efforts, engaging with a vast network of international partners. Hannah additionally serves on the Advisory Council for King Charles III's Astra Carta, the Advisory Board of The Exploration Company, and as a Mentor with the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience. She has been a proud participant in various activities of the International Astronautical Federation, and currently serves as a member of the Committee for Liaison with International Organisations and Developing Nations (CLIODN).

Before joining The Karman Project, Hannah spent five years working within the European innovation ecosystem, notably leading Product & Innovation at Factory Berlin. Hannah graduated in Law (Honours) and Journalism from the University of Queensland, and started her career practising as a lawyer. She received a scholarship to complete the Space Studies Program at the International Space University in 2022. People have always been at the heart of Hannah's work, driven by the belief that diversity, inclusion and shared understandings are essential to building a sustainable and peaceful future. With experience spanning technology, innovation, commercialisation, international policy and law, Hannah endeavours to bring a multidisciplinary lens to her work, helping bridge sectors and drive impactful collaborations on a global scale

Kangsan KIM (Antonio STARK)
Global Space Policy and Strategy Expert
ispace, inc
South Korea

Antonio Stark (KangSan Kim) is a South Korean space policy and strategy expert. His professional career spans across ispace, inc. (Global Alliance Lead), Planet Labs (Partner Sales Executive), HEO Robotics (Korea Country Manager), and the Maldives Space Research Organization (Program Manager). Antonio's work lies primarily in partnerships with government organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector to facilitate the global space ecosystem. He has worked on multiple projects on space sustainability, cislunar architecture, and satellite fleet management in the Indo-Pacific, developing policy guidelines and industry consortia.

Antonio is also active in the nonprofit sector, having had years of experience in the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Moon Village Association (MVA), the Space Court Foundation (SCF), the National Space Society (NSS), and the Interstellar Foundation. He currently serves as a Global Ambassador for the International Moon Day and Global Entrepreneurship Network-Space (GEN Space) and was formerly the Asia-Pacific Editor for SpaceWatch Global.

Antonio is an avid adventurer, having participated in expeditions to the Arctic Circle and the Himalayas. A lover of scuba diving, he was an analog astronaut on an underwater lunar station mission in China.

Eleonora LOMBARDI
Head of Department
Fondazione E. Amaldi
Italy

Eleonora Lombardi is the Head of Department at the E. Amaldi Foundation (FEA), where she leads strategic operations, optimizes processes and resources, and ensures the effective delivery of business initiatives within the New Space Economy sector. Previously, she served as Senior Technology Transfer Manager and Project Coordinator for European Commission initiatives at FEA, while also managing the deal flow for the Primo Space Fund, supporting investments in high-potential space startups. From 2019 to 2023, she acted as Deputy Ambassador for the European Space Agency's (ESA) Business Applications Platform in Italy, coordinating ESA InCubed+ activities and aligning national entrepreneurial ecosystem efforts with ESA's strategic objectives. Prior to joining FEA, Mrs. Lombardi was Business Development Manager for the ESA Integrated Applications Programme Ambassador initiative in Italy, managed by the Hypatia Research Consortium, where she also served as Technology Transfer Manager starting in 2016. Her experience spans institutional and policy engagement at the European level, working closely with startups, SMEs, academia, and large organizations to foster the commercialization of space technologies and drive innovation-based initiatives. She gained international experience at the Director General's Cabinet of ESA in Paris as a Research Assistant, and developed expertise on satellite application end-user communities through her work at Eurisy. Eleonora graduated with honours in International Relations from the University of Rome "La Sapienza", with a thesis in International Space Law and Policy focused on the development of a global legal framework for space debris mitigation and removal. She earned a second master's degree in Economic Intelligence from the University of Rome "Tor Vergata," focusing on ESA's entrepreneurial support programmes through economic intelligence tools for needs assessment, and completed executive training in European funds planning and management. As part of her academic journey, she participated in exchange programmes at Université Paris-Saclay and the University of Edinburgh. Since 2019, Eleonora has been actively contributing to the global space community, serving two consecutive terms as Regional Coordinator for Europe at the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC). She is currently the Vice-Chair for Technical Activities of the WD-YPP Committee at the International Astronautical Federation, after previously serving as a member of the IAF Industry Relations Committee.

Mahhad NAYYER
Co-Lead, Space Safety and Sustainability Project, Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC)
Graduate Researcher in Astronautics, Purdue University
Pakistan

Mahhad Nayyer is a graduate researcher in Astrodynamics and Space Applications at Purdue University's School of Aeronautics and Astronautics. His research focuses on advancing Space Situational Awareness (SSA) capabilities and enhancing Space Traffic Management (STM) protocols by analytically assessing orbital capacity through slotting architectures in Low Earth Orbit (LEO). He holds a Master of Engineering in Space Systems and Business Engineering from the Technical University of Graz in Austria, and a dual-degree Bachelor of Science in Astronautical Engineering and Humanities from the U.S. Air Force Academy.

In the international space community, Mahhad serves as Co-Lead of the Space Safety and Sustainability (SSS) Project Group at the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), where he has expanded and strengthened the group's research initiatives across member countries. He also holds the position of Vice Chair for the Emerging Space Ecosystems Sub-Committee in the Asia-Pacific region within the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). He is an active member of several technical committees in the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA).

Mahhad's contributions have been recognized with several honors, including the 2022 IAF Emerging Space Leader Award, the 2022 AIAA Diverse Dozen (now known as Ascendents), and the 2023 SGAC Nebula Award. In 2024, he was named a Karman Pioneer by the Karman Project Foundation. Mahhad also delivers capacity-building seminars and is frequently invited to speak on topics related to SSA, Space Domain Awareness (SDA), STM, and space sustainability.

In addition to his technical research, Mahhad is deeply committed to fostering international collaboration and capacity building in emerging space nations. As an SSA expert, he has contributed to policy discussions and advocacy efforts aimed at promoting equitable access to space, combining technical rigor with an understanding of the geopolitical and systemic challenges shaping the future of global space governance.

Adam OKNIŃSKI
Director, Space Technologies Center
Łukasiewicz Research Network – Institute of Aviation (ILOT)
Poland

Adam Okninski is a manager, engineer and rocket scientist and a former employee of the European Space Agency (ESA), were he optimized rocket engines via use of additive manufacturing. Now in Poland at Lukasiewicz – Institute of Aviation, Poland's largest aerospace R&D entity, he is leading development of cutting edge Green Space Propulsion, where he runs a 100+ people dedicated team. This includes not only bringing such projects, for the first time in history, to Central-Eastern Europe, but actually creating one of the hottest spots in the world in terms of new Green Space Propulsion developments. His team's efforts led to being part of over 30 ESA activities within the domains of Chemical Propulsion and Space Transportation Systems along numerous space projects from other European and national programmes.

His recognitions include several in under-30, under-35 and under-40 listings, including both national and international prizes. He serves as the Deputy Chair of the Committee for Space and Satellite Research of the Polish Academy of Science and is its Head of Space Transportation Section. He is also a member of the Academia of Engineering in Poland.

Adam graduated from the Faculty of Power and Aeronautical Engineering of Warsaw University of Technology, where he obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees. He obtained his PhD through research on rocket propulsion for space transportation (supervised by Prof. Piotr Wolański). Adam is involved in work on chemical propulsion, including green propellants, space transportation solutions, Moon lander technology and spacecraft deorbiting systems. His team demonstrated several milestones regarding utilization of 98% hydrogen peroxide as oxidizer, including world's first in-flight use of it in a space mission during a successful suborbital flight above the Von Karman Line in 2024. Living, studying and working in Poland, Germany, Canada and the Netherlands, led to his focus on projects with international impact. Being active in the International Astronautical Federation and IAF Space Propulsion Committee in particular, where he is the Vice-chair, he also supports the organization of IAC 2027 in Poznan, Poland, serving as the IPC Co-Chair in the Local Organizing Committee. Moreover, he is a full member of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA).

1.3.2 IAF Emerging Space Leaders (ESL) Grant Programme

These students and young professionals were chosen by the IAF Emerging Space Leaders Sub-Committee composed of highly experienced space stakeholders. They will travel to Sydney, Australia to participate in the 76th International Astronautical Congress and have the opportunity to extend their network, gain knowledge and meet space experts!

Rishav ADHIKARI
Nepal

Hi, my name is Rishav Adhikari, and I am currently working as the Project Lead of Slippers2Sat—Nepal's first middle school 1U CubeSat initiative by Antarikchya Pratisthan Nepal (APN). The S2S project is more than just launching a satellite; it's about opening access to space science and hands-on tech experiences for students from marginalized, impoverished, and indigenous public schools in Nepal. I'm helping build an inclusive and innovative space community here at home. I earned my MSc in ESPACE from the Technical University of Munich (TUM), where my thesis focused on the Observation of Earth's Gravity Field with CubeSats. During my time there, I was part of the Mission Design team for DEDRA (now MOVE-III), which deepened my interest in CubeSats. Before that, I completed my BEng in Aeronautics (Aircraft Design) from Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Working with APN has taken me to various parts of Nepal, where I've conducted hands-on space science and satellite training through programs like NATCOM UNESCO's week-long Tinkerlab Science Club Training and the E-Cube Satellite Training. These experiences have allowed me to connect with students from diverse backgrounds and have only strengthened my commitment to making space education accessible across the country. I'm also a passionate public speaker and storyteller. I love listening to and sharing stories about people's lives, their struggles, and their dreams. Recently, I've been working to bridge that passion for storytelling with space science because I believe the stories we tell can not only honor where we've come from, but also inspire where we're headed.

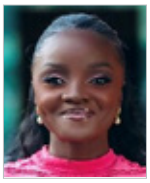
Arnold AGABA
Uganda

Arnold Agaba is a Ugandan-born lawyer and academic specializing in air and space law, with a focus on advancing the field in Africa. He holds a PhD and Master of Laws in Air and Space Law from McGill University, a Master of Laws in US Legal System and International Law from the University of Cincinnati, a Bachelor of Laws from Uganda Christian University, and a Diploma in Legal Practice from Uganda's Law Development Centre.

Agaba lectures at McGill University and several Ugandan universities. He is a member of the Uganda Law Society and the East African Law Society, where he chairs the Air and Space Law Committee and he serves as Chair of the Research Group on Air and Space Law in Africa. He is dedicated to legal education and capacity building, leading training and research programs for African professionals in aviation and space governance.

His research explores how African states develop legal and institutional frameworks for the sustainable and responsible use of outer space. Dr. Agaba focuses on the challenges and opportunities African countries face in space governance, including policy development, legal harmonization, and integrating African perspectives into international space law.

He is a strong advocate for African participation in the global space sector and emphasizes the importance of international cooperation urging African countries to contribute to the development international norms governing space activities. His work highlights the need for inclusive dialogue, capacity building, and sharing best practices to ensure Africa's interests are represented in space governance.



Omojo Rita AJUH
Nigeria

I am Ajuh Omojo Rita, a Nutrition Scientist at Nigeria's National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), with a strong passion for advancing astronaut health through nutrition and international research. My academic background includes a Bachelor's degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi. I am currently pursuing a Master's degree with a focus on space nutrition at University of Nigeria Nsukka. My journey into space science began with a commitment to understanding how extreme environments, like microgravity, influence human biology. As part of my achievements in the space industry, I had the honor of presenting at the 2023 International Astronomical Union (IAU) Conference on "The Bio-Environmental and Health Impact of Artificial Light at Night," where I emphasized the importance of protecting dark skies for human health and space sustainability. As someone from the Global South, I believe international cooperation is essential in shaping a more inclusive and effective future for space exploration. Also, collaboration across nations allows us to share diverse perspectives, develop holistic solutions, and ensure that all regions contribute meaningfully to the global space agenda. Being selected for the 2025 IAF Emerging Space Leaders Grant is a major milestone. It reflects a growing recognition of nutrition as a critical element of spaceflight. I am excited to engage with a global community of innovators, share insights from African scientific research, and work together toward improving astronaut health and fostering lasting international partnerships in space exploration.

Billy BRYAN
United Kingdom

Billy is currently on secondment at the UK Space Agency as a senior space strategist. His work focuses on helping to set the direction of the Agency domestically and internationally, including the activities within the UK's membership with ESA. He is seconded from RAND Europe, where he led the space policy business area and the RAND Europe Space Hub.

Billy's main motivation for working in the space sector is to bring the benefits of space back down to Earth. He has led studies in the UK and Europe linking the results of publicly funded space R&D and missions to real world impacts. These have included work on the benefits of the UK's membership of ESA, which showed significant positive results to UK industry and society, such as increased employment, climate monitoring and economic value. He has also led work on European access to space for DG DEFIS and explored the public benefits of UK Earth Observation programmes and reviewed UK science mission contributions such as JWST's MIRI and Solar Orbiter.

He has published several papers advocating for new and better space traffic management systems in both Earth and Lunar orbit. He is an advocate for stronger and more inclusive cooperation in space, particularly in publicly funded science missions which inspire future generations and translate to public benefits here on Earth.

Billy is a member of SGAC's Law and Policy Research Group and is a recipient of the European Space Leader Award and winner of the 2025 UNOOSA/SGAC Space4Youth Competition.

Selene CANNELLI
Italy

A mix of archaeologist and microbiologist, I'm a PhD student at the Earth-Life Science Institute (Japan). I'm blending chemistry, geology, and microfluidic technology to explore the nanoscale interactions between minerals and organics, seeking clues to life's emergence on Earth and beyond. Outside academia, I'm a rugby athlete and explorer. But the road to arrive here wasn't straightforward.

Once convinced the Moon was following me, I put my space passion aside. Only 5 years ago, realizing that space is for everyone, I started to craft my path while advocating for this. I joined SGAC, leading a team to win the Moon Society 2020 Moon Base Design competition. Afterward, I became SGAC HR co-coordinator and then Italy Point of Contact (2022-2024). Curious to bring my archaeology background to space, I joined an analog astronaut mission (Analog Astronaut Training Center), creating the first analog habitat interactive museum. Driven to integrate archaeological practices into space exploration, I became interested in outer space environmental and human heritage protection policies. For this, I was selected as a 2022 ASCEND Diverse Dozen for the ongoing project "Earth's Orbits as a World Heritage Site." Space is interdisciplinary by nature, and that's what hooked me: the constant challenge to rethink and reinvent ourselves, and to bring people together. For this, I co-founded the first Astrobiology Graduate Conference Japan 2024, gathering a diverse and international community within Japan. We are now working to organize future editions and the first Asia Pacific Astrobiology Graduate Conference, bringing together astrobiology and space exploration students across the region

Celia CHAVEZ VIRGEN
Mexico

Celia Chávez Virgen is a Mexican undergraduate in Communications and Electronics Engineering at the Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN). Her current project at IPN's Aerospace Development Center focuses on designing SDR-based emergency ground station networks to ensure resilient communication in disaster scenarios. At the Mexican Space Agency, she completed her social service as a Geospatial Analyst, where she developed national coverage maps for satellite, fixed, and cellular communications, directly supporting the Diagnosis of the Digital Divide in Mexico. Celia completed a research stay at Samara State Aerospace University in Russia on satellite formation flight for ionospheric studies and later joined Zhejiang University in China to work on distributed AI for semantic communications. She also interned at the National Institute for Materials Science in Japan, supporting ML-driven aerospace material discovery in collaboration with JAXA and CNES. As a BEIFI research fellow at IPN's EMC Lab, she worked on electromagnetic interference analysis, renewable energy system signal mitigation, and wind power flow converters. She received Best Poster at IPN's Institutional Research Forum, the IPN Academic Excellence Award, and completed an exchange semester with a full Magalhães/SMILE grant to study subjects such as GNSS and telecom systems at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid in Spain. She has presented at CONACES 2024, México's largest space congress, and represented her university as an Ambassador at Oxford International in Canada. An active member of IEEE and WIE, she promotes STEAM outreach and Model UN diplomacy, and holds amateur radio training, supporting her work in satellite-ground communication systems. Her goal is to close connectivity gaps through integrated, space-based technological solutions. By combining telecommunications, AI, and space systems, she aims to build resilient infrastructure that empowers vulnerable regions and expands scientific frontiers.

Amina DAGHOURI
Morocco

As a researcher and professor at Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco, I specialize in the development and optimization of Electrical Power Systems (EPS) for nanosatellites. I was part of the team that recently launched Morocco's first two CubeSats, UM5SAT-RIBAT and UM5-EOSat, under the leadership of the University Center for Research in Space Technologies (CURTS). My current research focuses on applying artificial intelligence to enable predictive maintenance in satellite power systems, with the goal of increasing their reliability and autonomy in both deep-space and constellation missions.

Being selected as an IAF grant recipient and having my abstract accepted for the International Astronautical Congress is a milestone in my professional journey. It affirms my dedication to merging cutting-edge technologies such as machine learning with the critical challenges faced in space system design. I believe that the future of space exploration depends on inclusive and equitable international cooperation. As space becomes more accessible, especially through small satellite missions, it is essential to ensure that emerging space nations are empowered to contribute. This requires open collaboration, capacity-building, and knowledge-sharing across borders.

I am proud to represent Morocco's growing role in the global space community and excited to engage with peers from around the world. Together, we can work toward a future where space science and technology benefit all of humanity.

Nadine DUURSMA
The Netherlands

Nadine Duursma is a double MSc student in Robotics and Space Engineering at Delft University of Technology, passionate about applying AI and autonomy to space missions. Her work has taken her from the Arctic, where she developed CubeSats and autonomous tracking systems at Andøya Space, to the Australian outback, where she raced 3,000 km with a solar car.

She contributed to NASA's Lunar Gateway research during the Space Studies Program in Houston and currently works at ESA Φ-lab on AI-based Tip and Cue, a two-satellite concept for Earth observation. She also spent a semester at Princeton University, where she explored entrepreneurship, leadership, and teaching alongside her technical work.

Nadine is enthusiastic about making space accessible and engaging to all. To that end, Nadine authored the children's book Met Mama naar Mars to inspire young minds, and co-hosts the national podcast BNR Space Cowboys, which brings space news to a broad audience in the Netherlands.

As the first Dutch recipient of the IAF Emerging Space Leaders grant, Nadine is committed to helping shape a space sector that is open, collaborative, and driven by curiosity, where people work together to achieve what once seemed impossible. Looking ahead, she aims to contribute to the advancement of space robotics and operations.

Marko GAVRILOVIC
Serbia

Marko Gavrilovic, MSc, MSc (b. 1998, Belgrade) is a Research & Development Engineer and Mathematician working in the UK-German company on several HORIZON Europe and European projects, leading advanced mathematical and numerical modelling especially in the Aerospace and the Laser industry. He is a European Mechanics Society Member, and a member in European Cooperation is Science and Technology in several groups. As a Junior Research Assistant at the Astronomical Observatory, he works on several national projects, including the first Serbian satellite program and the national project for the computation of the Yarkovsky effect. He graduated and finished both Faculty of Mathematics and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, both with perfect GPAs (10.00/10.00) with the title the Best Student of Generation of Bachelor, Master and Overall studies including the title the Best student of generation given by the University of Belgrade.

His research spans theoretical and analytical mechanics, thermal-fluid mechanics, orbital dynamics, and advanced mathematical modeling. Marko's master's thesis in Analytical Mechanics was the first of its kind at his faculty focusing on Quasi coordinates and the Euler-Lagrange differential equations for the complex system motions. His astrophysics thesis focused on the Yarkovsky effect on fast-rotating asteroids. He is pursuing two PhDs—one in Mechanical Engineering and one in Astrophysics.

Regarded as an Exceptionally gifted student of the Republic of Serbia, he won the Award for talented young researchers, first place in international competitions in Mechanics, several medals on national competitions, etc. In 2023, Blic magazine named him one of Serbia's "Top 20 Most Remarkable Citizens."

Moritz HERBERHOLD

Germany

Moritz Herberhold is an aerospace engineer and PhD candidate at the German Aerospace Center (DLR), where his work is dedicated to making spaceflight more sustainable. As part of DLR's S3D initiative, he develops the DLR Global Launch Emission Inventory—a state-of-the-art tool that models rocket launch emissions. His research aims to provide accurate emission data for understanding how rocket launches affect the atmosphere, ultimately contributing to global climate models and to sustainable rocket design.

Moritz's journey in aerospace began with a focus on efficient flight systems, earning him the DGLR Young Talent Award for his work on design methods for fuel-efficient flying wings during his bachelor's studies. He then joined ESA's Space Debris Office for his master's thesis. Here he developed a method for detecting low-thrust satellite maneuvers, which helps ESA to avoid collisions with satellites with electric propulsion, like the Starlink satellites. His expertise spans system analysis, environmental impact modeling, and international collaboration, making him a valuable contributor to sustainable space technologies.

Beyond research, Moritz shares his passion for space as a scientific advisor for Carlsen Publishing. In this role, he proofreads space-themed children's books, ensuring they are both scientifically accurate and easy to understand for young readers.

For Moritz, space is a shared domain that requires collective responsibility. He believes that international cooperation is essential for sustainable space exploration, from ensuring safe satellite operations to minimizing the environmental impact of rocket launches. His goal is to promote a balanced approach to space exploration—one that advances technology while preserving the delicate environment of our planet.

Bhavyashree JANARDHANA

India

Bhavyashree Janardhana is a space enthusiast and currently works as a Propulsion development & AIT Engineer at Polaris Spaceplanes. She holds a Master's degree in Space Engineering from TU Berlin, where she focused on propulsion systems for hypersonic spaceplanes and advanced propellant supply systems. With a background in Aeronautical Engineering from India, she has worked as a research associate at premier Indian institutes, specializing in space structures and aerodynamics. Notably, she contributed to the aerodynamic and vibrational testing of the Indian space agency's crew module in low-speed wind tunnel environments.

She is an active member of the global space community, having been part of the SGAC Alumni team since 2020. She served on the organizing team of SG[Germany] 2023 and currently holds leadership roles as Co-Event Manager and Finance Manager for SG[Germany] 2025, in addition to contributing to E-SGW 2024.

Bhavyashree is also a member of the Space Propulsion Committee of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), engaging in the development of advanced propulsion technologies for deep space missions.

She strongly believes that space is a collective endeavor, requiring global cooperation to achieve meaningful and sustainable progress. Her work is driven by the conviction that inclusive collaboration and open knowledge-sharing are vital to advancing space exploration. By blending technical expertise with a commitment to international cooperation, she aims to foster a unified and forward-looking global space community.

Charlynne JEPKOSGEI

Kenya

Charlynne Jepkosgei is a geospatial engineer and visionary leader with over 7 years of experience working in Academia and consulting across private companies and government agencies. She holds a Master's degree in Spatial Engineering from the University of Twente (ITC Faculty), Netherlands which has shaped her career growth in the space industry. Driven by a strong passion for space enabled societal development, Charlynne is focused on leveraging EO and AI to address pressing global challenges such as food insecurity, climate resilience and ecosystem degradation in Africa. Her work bridges research, capacity building, policy and governance thereby positioning her as a powerful voice for data-driven and inclusive decision making.

Also passionate about inspiring the next generation, she is the founder of Women in Space Kenya (WiSK), a professional organization dedicated to mentoring, inspiring and equipping young women in Kenya and across Africa to pursue careers in the space and geospatial sectors and even grow into space leadership. Through this initiative, she currently aligns her work with the Kenya Space Agency, UNOOSA Space4Women and the African Union's Agenda 2063 to ensure inclusive and gender responsive growth in the continent's space ecosystem. In 2023, she was a selected participant and facilitator at the 5th UNOOSA Space4Women Expert meeting contributing to the implementation of the Gender Mainstreaming toolkit and developing strategies to explore impact to the marginalized communities.

Charlynne believes that space is a unifying domain with immense potential to solve real-world problems when guided by inclusive, ethical and cooperative principles and thus is committed to advancing innovation, international cooperation and leadership in space science. She envisions ESL as a great opportunity that will not only empower her to amplify Africa's voice in global space dialogues with other leaders but also reaffirms her commitment to leveraging space technologies for sustainable development.

Ankit KHANAL

Nepal

Ankit Khanal, a driven young professional from Nepal, is making significant strides in global space collaboration and innovation. Serving on the International Astronautical Federation's (IAF) Advisory Committee on History Activities, representing the Space Generation Advisory Council, he researches the Space Industry's history in Asia, demonstrating his commitment to preserving international space cooperation. His dedication to bridging technical and policy frameworks aligns seamlessly with the IAF's mission to foster international dialogue and sustainable space development.

His career uniquely blends technical expertise with visionary leadership. At the Space Research Centre of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), he conducted research on the Need for Space Law and Policy in Nepal. During his time on the Nepalese Space Research Association Board of Directors, he championed Nepal's National Space Law and Policy and significantly increased youth engagement in STEM. His global outreach includes roles with NASA's Scientist for a Day and Astronomers Without Borders, fostering scientific curiosity through hands-on education.

Holding a Computer Engineering degree, Ankit applies his skills to innovative projects in AI, IoT, and application development. His certifications in UNOOSA Space Law and NASA Open Science highlight his dedication to ethical innovation in emerging space nations.

Ankit's participation in international forums like IAC and COY underscores his commitment to global challenges. As an IAF Emerging Space Leader 2025, he aims to amplify underrepresented voices in space policy, advocate for equitable access, and inspire future generations through STEM mentorship. His journey embodies the IAF ESL spirit: curiosity, leadership, and a passion for uniting the world through space.

João LOUSADA
Portugal

João Lousada is currently the ISS Operations Service Lead, at the European Space Agency, being responsible for the European operations onboard the International Space Station.

He has worked previously as a Flight Director for Columbus, the European module of the International Space Station. As such, he was responsible for the planning and the operations of the module, as well as the safety of the astronauts on board. He was the lead flight director for several ESA missions and projects, in particular during Increments 65 and 67, where he was responsible for the Alpha and the Minerva missions, of ESA astronauts Thomas Pesquet and of Samantha Cristoforetti, respectively.

He is an active member of the International Astronautical Federation's Human Spaceflight Committee and Young Professionals Program Committee, as well an alumnus of the Space Generation Advisory Council, where he undertook several leadership positions, including being elected regional coordinator for Europe.

João is also an analog astronaut and commander of Mars analog missions for the Austrian Space Forum (OeWF). The most recent of these missions took place in Israel, in the Negev desert, where he spent 4 weeks isolated in the desert, with a small team simulating a future mission to Mars.

He graduated from the Instituto Superior Técnico, in Portugal, with a Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering that included studies at the Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, in Spain, and the University of Victoria, in Canada.

João enjoys traveling, exploring, running, climbing, SCUBA diving, skydiving and piloting.

Patrick MIGA
United States

Patrick is currently an Astrodynamics Engineer and Solutions Architect at Advanced Space, where his functional role is that of the Space Domain Awareness (SDA) and Space Traffic Coordination (STC) Portfolio Lead. In this role, Patrick operates at the crossroads of engineering, business development, and project management - bridging the gap between user needs and innovation in SDA and STC technologies. His primary focus is the advancement of these capabilities within the cislunar orbital regime, though his passion extends to improving safety and sustainability across all areas of spaceflight.

Patrick holds a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and dual Master's degrees in Aerospace Engineering Sciences and Engineering Management from the University of Colorado, Boulder. In graduate school, his research explored space-based observability of cislunar satellites and led him to derive an analytical equation to estimate observability for relative motion amongst objects. He was selected for the 2nd class of Matthew Isakowitz Fellows in 2019 and he currently serves as the Vice President of Education at his local Toastmasters International club in Denver.

Given the nature of astrodynamics, Patrick firmly believes that space is inherently international; SDA and STC are important considerations for every object launched into space from any nation. International collaboration is mutually beneficial to all spacecraft operators – by enhancing these partnerships, there is a significant reduction in risk from collision events.

Ashutosh MISHRA
India

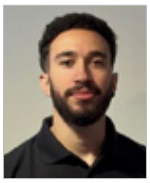
I am Ashutosh Mishra, a doctoral researcher at Tohoku University's Space Robotics Lab in Japan, working under the national Moonshot R&D program. My research focuses on the development of autonomous, modular robots for lunar missions, with the goal of enabling long-term human presence in space. These AI-powered systems demonstrate self-reconfiguration, adaptive mobility, and decentralized learning to support tasks such as navigation, construction, and resource utilization in unknown lunar environments.

I have conducted successful demonstrations of autonomous control, self-assembly, and lunar task simulations using in-situ materials at JAXA facilities. In one notable test, our modular robots identified simulated habitat leaks—reducing astronaut risk by detecting hazards without human exposure. My work has been featured in various media outlets and reflects a broader vision: enhancing mission safety, sustainability, and efficiency through robotics.

Beyond research, I'm passionate about democratizing space. As a Japanese MEXT Scholar and Indian Innovation Ambassador, I mentor students from underrepresented communities and promote inclusive access to STEM education. Through my long-standing involvement with NGOs, I help deliver science outreach to underserved regions in India.

I was also honored with the I-CON Award by the Indian Society of Remote Sensing (ISRS) for developing an AI-enabled satellite-based pollution tracking system with NRSC–ISRO, addressing critical Earth observation challenges.

At IAC 2025, I look forward to sharing how modular robotics, systems thinking, and inclusive design can drive equitable exploration and empower diverse future space missions.



Lucas MITIDIERI
Argentina

From a young age, I have been fascinated by understanding how things work and by building prototypes with available materials. This curiosity led me to study Mechanical Engineering and to start a small 3D printing business, which continues to support my studies and provides practical experience in creating parts with technical designs and materials.

Currently, I am developing a 3U deployer for CubeSat satellites. I built an initial prototype using 3D printing in line with aerospace standards and conducted expulsion tests at my university's lab to evaluate its core functionality. The project is still in progress, and I am investigating the use of high-performance polymers to create a fully operational version that is both lightweight and a cost-effective alternative to aerospace-grade aluminum. This stage of the project continues to inspire me and expand my skills.

Being selected to attend IAC 2025 in Sydney is a great honor and opportunity for me. Coming from Argentina, where access to the space sector is more limited, this experience means a lot. It allows me to share what I'm working on, receive feedback, and connect with people from different backgrounds who are also passionate about space.

I believe international cooperation in space is essential. It brings people from around the world together to exchange ideas and learn from each other. This shared effort makes our work stronger, more innovative, and more meaningful.

I'm truly grateful for this chance, and I'm excited to keep growing through everything I'll learn during this experience.

Sima MORADINASAB
Iran

Sima Moradinasab is a Ph.D. Graduate in public international law from Shahid Beheshti University (SBU), specializing in space law. As a talented student, she also earned her bachelor's degree in law (2018) and her master's degree in public international law (2020) from SBU. Sima, as a visiting researcher, conducted and completed her doctoral research at the International Institute of Air and Space Law (IIASL) of Leiden University. She has also written and published several articles on space law.

Sima is eager to fostering space law discourse, especially among young generations. To achieve this, she gives lecture for law students. She has also participated in international conferences, including the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) where she has presented her research on space law issues. She has also been one of the selected speakers of the 2022 Young Lawyers' Symposium organized by the European Centre for Space Law (ECSL).

Sima joined Space Generation Advisory Council ('SGAC') in January 2024 as a member of Space Law and Policy (SLP) Project Group (PG) and a team member of Space Generation Advocacy and Policy Platform. She currently serves as the National Point of Contact for Iran and co-leads the research group within the SGAC SLP PG. She is also an individual member of the International Institute of Space Law (IISL).

Sima firmly believes that international cooperation is essential for space exploration. It not only enables non-space-faring nations to access outer space, but plays a vital role in ensuring the long-term sustainability of space.

Hassan NOORELDEEN
Egypt

Hassan Nooreldeen is a Space Weather Engineer at the Egyptian Space Agency (EgSA), where he leads research and operations at the Egyptian Space Weather Center. He holds a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. in Space Science from Helwan University; his master's thesis pioneered AI-driven forecasting of ionospheric irregularities over Egypt using deep-learning techniques.

Hassan's work focuses on unraveling how solar activity impacts Earth's magnetosphere and ionosphere. By integrating high-resolution local datasets with advanced machine-learning approaches, he has led studies of geomagnetic storm effects across the MENA region.

He contributes as a Space Weather Engineer on key national space missions in remote sensing and space exploration, ensuring each satellite can withstand hazardous space environment conditions. An active researcher, he publishes in leading peer-reviewed journals and presents regularly at international conferences and workshops.

Hassan now aspires to pursue a PhD in Space Weather under expert supervision, aiming to advance forecasting capabilities and deliver comprehensive services across North Africa, the Mediterranean, and beyond.

Shachi SINGH
India

Shachi is a PhD student in Mechanical Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, USA. Her research focuses on hypervelocity impacts into porous geomaterials, with applications in planetary defense. She has presented this work at the MACH Conference, where it received the People's Choice Best Poster Award, the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, and at the ISRD workshop in Grenoble, France. Beyond research, Shachi is passionate about actively contributing to the academic community through advocacy, outreach, and leadership. At Johns Hopkins, she serves as the Vice President of the Mechanical Engineering Graduate Student Association, represents her department in the university-wide Graduate Student Organization, and serves on the Vice Provost's PhD Student Advisory Committee.

Growing up, she was fascinated with the infiniteness of the night sky, which inspires her passion for space. She completed her B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering at IIT Roorkee, India, where she worked on the design and deployment of origami booms for space applications. She received the IIT Roorkee Excellence Award in both 2021 and 2022 for her all-round contributions across academics, leadership, and extracurriculars. After graduation, she worked as a Wireline Engineer at Schlumberger in India and the UAE before starting her PhD.

Shachi is enthusiastic about creating "space" for cross-border conversations and collaboration in the global space community to propel the shared space journey of humanity. She believes that international platforms like the IAC are vital to ensure that the future of space is shaped by inclusive, global cooperation.

Julia STANKIEWICZ
Poland

Julia is a young professional at the European Space Agency, contributing to the Lunar Gateway program. She supports the Life Support Equipment and Structures subsystems for ESA's habitation and refuelling modules. Her greatest passion is exploration—both of space and diverse cultures.

During her studies, Julia gained professional experience at organizations such as NASA JPL, Rolls-Royce, and Planet Labs. She has lived in six countries and studied in four languages. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Manchester and the Technical University of Munich. She is also an alumna of the International Space University and was awarded the Brooke Owens Fellowship in 2020.

Julia is deeply committed to STEM outreach. She had the honor of representing Poland at the United Nations and participated in the "Women in Science Leadership" panel. Furthermore, as part of ESA's ESERO outreach initiatives, she conducts space-themed lectures for Polish students.

Brenden SWANIK

United States

Like many involved in the IAF, space is a vocation for Brenden Swanik. Born in New Jersey and currently based in Washington, D.C., Brenden is a native of the U.S. East Coast. Through his work with Voyager Technologies and Chasing Space LLC, he has had the opportunity to travel widely, build connections across borders, and help foster an inclusive international space economy.

With a background in biomedical engineering, Brenden leads the Satellite Mission Management team at Voyager Technologies, where he oversees the integration, launch, and deployment of satellites from the International Space Station (ISS). He has managed more than 40 satellite missions across five distinct launch campaigns, spanning a range of orbits and launch vehicles.

Inspired by the power of international collaboration to overcome both technical and bureaucratic barriers, Brenden also serves as the Founder and Host of Chasing Space, a podcast dedicated to opening access to the space sector for young and underrepresented communities. The show has reached over 6,000 listeners across more than 50 countries—many in regions with emerging space economies.

In addition to his engineering and outreach work, Brenden regularly speaks at conferences and events across the U.S. He also volunteers at K–12 schools, sharing his experiences to inspire the next generation of space professionals. In his spare time, Brenden enjoys playing guitar, surfing, and competing in athletic events such as triathlons, HYROX, and running races.

Mohan TAMANG

Nepal

Mohan Tamang is a young space enthusiast from Nepal and the founder of Mach24 Orbitals, a launch vehicle startup focused on making space access more inclusive, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. He has been a driving force in developing grassroots space initiatives in Nepal, combining technical innovation with public outreach to build a sustainable space ecosystem in a developing country context.

With over a decade of dedication to social and space entrepreneurships, Mr. Tamang has led multiple organizations with prominent roles such as SEDS-Nepal and National Innovation Center to foster space technology across the country. He also led the country's first sounding rocket team to design, build, and launch an award-winning sounding rocket, recognized internationally at the Spaceport America Cup. Apart from engineering, he has reached over 10,000+ students through workshops and hands-on programs in rocketry and small satellites.

Currently his startup Mach24 Orbitals is working collaboratively with Space Research Center of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) at their Makerspace, to develop hybrid propulsion-based suborbital rockets, targeting to reach KARMAN LINE. He envisions Nepal not just as a space user but as a contributor to the global space supply chain.

Mohan believes in redefining "Space for All," advocating for international cooperation to bridge the technological divide between nations and making space more accessible for all. As an IAF Emerging Space Leader, Mr. Tamang embodies the values of leadership, inclusivity, and international engagement that define the next generation of global space pioneers.

Iliass TANOUTI
Morocco

Iliass Tanouti is an aerospace engineer with a degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Manchester and a Master's in Space Studies from the International Space University (ISU). He combines technical expertise with a passion for building equitable solutions and has experience driving international, cross-cultural, and multidisciplinary collaboration projects, which are key to ensuring the space industry succeeds for the benefit of humankind.

As Vice President of Delivery & Customer Success at constellr, Iliass ensures the successful delivery and operational excellence of cutting-edge thermal Earth observation data for environmental and agricultural applications, aligning with global sustainability goals.

He is also the Space Projects Lead at Je m'engage pour l'Afrique, a public policy incubator dedicated to empowering young individuals to become citizen entrepreneurs by ideating and promoting policy recommendations on critical issues for Africa's development. In 2024, through Je m'engage pour l'Afrique, Iliass led the publication of Drawing from Above, a unique book aimed at raising awareness among African policymakers of the many benefits the space industry can bring.

Recognized as one of the Top 10 Under 30 Africans in the Space Industry in 2020 , Iliass has also held roles such as Regional Coordinator for Africa at the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) and Ambassador for Africa at the International Space University (ISU).

Iliass aims to shape a future where space technology drives sustainable development and empowers communities globally.

Emebet MEHABAW TEGEGNE
Ethiopia

Emebet Mehabaw is an Ethiopian aerospace engineer specializing in satellite technology and space mission design. She currently serves as the Head of Satellite Communication and Infrastructure Development at Black Space, where she leads the development of advanced satellite communication systems. Her technical expertise spans CubeSat development, systems integration, and space mission planning and design, enabling her to deliver scalable and impactful solutions tailored to the unique needs of developing space programs.

With a strong foundation in engineering and leadership, Emebet combines hands-on technical skills with strategic vision to drive innovation across Africa's growing space sector. Her dedication to expanding access to orbital technologies is reflected in her active engagement with global space communities.

Emebet is an Ambassador for the International Astronomy and Astrophysics Competition (IAAC), promoting science education and inspiring students across the region to pursue careers in STEM. Her efforts were recognized with the 2024 African Space Leaders Award, honoring her significant contributions to Ethiopia's and Africa's advancement in aerospace innovation.

In addition, she serves as the National Point of Contact(NPoC)for Ethiopia at the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), where she mentors young professionals and supports the country's emerging space ecosystem.

Driven by a passion for inclusion, mentorship, and technological advancement, Emebet continues to be a leading voice shaping a more equitable future in exploration and satellite development. She is a powerful advocate for inclusive space exploration, empowering the next generation of scientists and engineers while helping to position Africa as a vital contributor to the global space community.

Faith TNG
Singapore

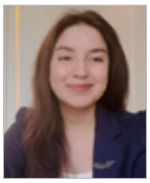
Faith is a space engineer currently at the German Aerospace Centre, towards completing her Masters in Space Engineering thesis on developing a multi-sensor suite for a lunar cave exploration rover. She started her career in Singapore's space industry eight years ago by joining the first New Space startup in the country, helped to drive the first few space life sciences research experiments, and grew the local space entrepreneurship community to 700 members at peak. Later, she was selected for two fully-funded global venture capital fellowships, specializing in space and deeptech.

As the first Southeast Asian to be awarded the Pioneer Award from the Space Generation Advisory Council, Faith currently oversees its education and professional development organizational pillar for the 30,000-member organisation. She is also implementing a geospatial/AI project to track specific climate metrics in Southeast Asia, as part of the Youth4Climate grant awarded by the United Nations Development Program and Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security.

In leisure, Faith is a hackathon enthusiast who has won or ranked in the top percentile for seven space-related competitions. She believes space technologies are vital to securing our future amid breakneck industrial development, and that non-traditional sectors and ecosystems need to be engaged at the onset.

Nijanthan VASUDEVAN
India

Nijanthan Vasudevan is a robotics and AI researcher specializing in intelligent autonomous systems for space and extreme-environment applications. His academic and professional journey bridges mechanical design, machine learning, and multi-agent robotics, with a focus on AI-integrated perception, planning, and control. He has authored multiple peer-reviewed publications and presented his research at globally recognized venues including the International Astronautical Congress (IAC), ASME IMECE, and NDIA. At Drexel University, his research advances robust planetary navigation through high-resolution 3D LiDAR point cloud processing, multimodal sensor fusion with thermal and depth data, and pose-graph SLAM optimized for real-time edge inference. His reinforcement learning pipelines—leveraging Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO) and behavioral cloning—are trained in VR-based digital twins and deployed to physical robotic platforms for precision manipulation in unstructured environments. His graduate thesis presented a dual-arm, modular robotic platform enhanced by adaptive grasping and human-in-the-loop control via immersive VR. As co-founder of Astrada Cyberlabs LLC, a startup developing AI-driven swarm robotics for orbital debris mitigation, he leads the development of autonomous satellite tracking systems, decentralized multi-robot coordination architectures, and bio-integrated prosthetics utilizing myoelectric sensing. He is the named inventor on two pending patents in the domains of CubeSat-based debris removal and adaptive multi-modal mobility. As Research Lead within the Space Generation Advisory Council, he coordinated international teams to design AI-coordinated CubeSat swarms for sustainable orbital operations. Committed to inclusive innovation, he conducts outreach workshops and mentoring for underserved communities, championing a vision of resilient, intelligent, and equitable human expansion into space.



Nathalie VILCHIS LAGUNES
Mexico

Nathalie Vilchis Lagunes is currently a Systems Test Engineer at Planet Labs, working on the company's latest Earth imagery satellite missions, Pelican and Tanager. She holds a bachelor's degree in Mechatronics Engineering with a Minor in Applied Robotics from Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico. In recognition of her achievements, Nathalie was named one of Forbes Mexico's 100 Most Powerful Women in 2021 and included in Quién magazine's list of 50 Personalities Changing Mexico. Key milestones in Nathalie's career include:

- Earning the Mitacs Globalink Research Internship to study multi-legged robots at Queen's University, Canada.
- Being selected for the Caltech Space Challenge to develop a sample-return mission proposal to Titan.
- Receiving the prestigious Brooke Owens Fellowship for exceptional women in aerospace.
- Graduating from the Aurelia Institute Horizon 2024 Zero Gravity Program, where she developed microgravity research on soft robots, tested them on a zero-gravity flight, and presented her findings at IAC 2024.
- Being awarded the Nebula Award from the Space Generation Advisory Council.

Nathalie also founded of Chica NASA and Space Latinos initiatives designed to engage Latinx youth in space science and encourage women to pursue careers in STEAM fields. This year at IAC, Nathalie will present a follow-up to her previous research on soft robots in microgravity, now exploring their application as medical tools in space. Nathalie believes space exploration is humanity's greatest mission to understand where we come from and where we're headed. She strongly thinks that it is the duty of those of us already in the space sector to facilitate opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to contribute to this singular mission.

Kanya XONGO
South Africa

Kanya Xongo is a Junior Remote Sensing Scientist at the South African National Space Agency, which dominates the space sector across the African Region. Her educational background in the use of Earth Observation data for environmental conservation deepened her passion for using science and technology to create meaningful environmental impact. Upon arriving at the space agency, her interests and passion have extended to climate change monitoring and air quality research.

Kanya's most recent achievements, amongst many, was obtaining her Masters in Science from the Nelson Mandela University, with focus on exploring ecological restoration through Earth observation and geospatial analysis.

As an early-career professional, Kanya is committed to promoting inclusive access to space-based knowledge and tools. As such, she currently serves as an executive member of the SA Geo Youth—the first youth-led initiative under the global Group on Earth Observations. The SA GEO Youth mission is to ensure that young voices are actively shaping the future of Earth observation and space policy, especially from underrepresented regions like Africa.

Kanya believes that space is a shared resource with the power to unite the world in solving global challenges. International cooperation, open data, and inclusive capacity building are critical to ensuring that all countries, particularly in the Global South, can benefit from and contribute to the space sector.

Through the Emerging Space Leaders programme, I am excited to engage with a global community of peers and mentors, exchange ideas, and build long-term collaborations. I look forward to applying what I learn to strengthen my contributions at SANSA, continue empowering youth in Earth observation, and help grow Africa's presence in the international space community.

Farah Diya YASMINE
Indonesia

Farah Diya Yasmine is an Indigenous Madurese Indonesian, serving as a legislative drafter for the Secretariat General for the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia. As a young leader and space enthusiast, Farah has contributed to almost 100 programs, often in leadership roles. Her work focuses on the sustainability of space resources, environment, and technology utilization.

As the founder and president of Farah Law School, she loves sharing lectures and opportunities on space with Indigenous students. Farah is a co-chair for the 2025 Lunar Environmental Protection Working Group 1 of the Global Expert Group on Sustainable Lunar Activities, examining space law instruments, especially with the approach to long-term sustainability. Within the SGAC, Farah performs as HR Recruitment Lead, Research Coordinator for the Near-Earth Object Project Group, and Event Coordinator for the Space Law and Policy Project Group. Her involvement advances to the 2025 SGAC ACHIEVED Competition as an expert and co-leading the Un-Inclusive Space Policy project within the SGAC Space Safety and Sustainability Project Group.

Farah was the official youth delegate of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Indonesia at the 2023 Global Youth Summit in Seoul, South Korea. Farah received a full-funding opportunity to present her thesis ideas at the 2023 World Space Forum in Vienna, Austria. As the first Indonesian ascendant, Farah received a grant from the AIAA to attend and speak at ASCEND 2025.

For Farah, space and international cooperation shall be translated into collaborative efforts with mutual benefits for past, present, and future generations.

1.3.3 Future Space Leaders (FSL) Grant Programme

The Future Space Leaders Foundation (FSLF) is pleased to announce the 2025 Future Space Leaders Grant Program. Intended for U.S. graduate students and young professionals who are pursuing space- and satellite-related careers, the program will provide grants for participation in the 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) to be held in Sydney, Australia, September 29th to October 3. 2025. In addition to attending the IAC, Grant Recipients will also be involved in supplementary career development activities in Sydney. These IAC-associated events include the Cross-Cultural Presentation Workshop, the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation (IAF) Workshop and the Young Professionals Workshop.

Carson COURSEY is a flight mechanics project engineer at The Aerospace Corporation, a federally funded research and development center that provides technical guidance and advice on space activities to military, civil, and commercial customers. Carson primarily supports efforts related to space sustainability and space operational assurance, such as researching the impact of satellite constellations on astronomy, novel conjunction assessment techniques, and satellite constellation orbital tolerances. Additionally, Carson enjoys mentoring aspiring and current space professionals. He holds a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Kyle HORN is a Ph.D. candidate and National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His research enables planetary exploration missions through in-situ resource utilization (ISRU) technology development, with a current focus on Venus aerial robotic platforms. He worked previously on the Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment (MOXIE) onboard NASA JPL's Mars Perseverance Rover, and on the Blue Alchemist lunar molten regolith electrolysis ISRU project while at Blue Origin. Kyle is passionate about disability inclusion in space exploration; he currently volunteers as an AstroAccess Ambassador and has published research on insulin delivery pump performance in microgravity. In addition to his research, Kyle volunteers as an EMT with the MIT Emergency Medical Service, scuba dives, backpacks, and is a student pilot.

Katherine (Katie) MELBOURNE is a national security space policy analyst in the Center for Space Policy and Strategy at The Aerospace Corporation. Her research is currently focused on international partnerships in space and applying physics to space strategy, building off her prior experience in wargaming, drafting international agreements, and studying stellar activity. Prior to joining Aerospace, Katie was a systems engineer at Ball Aerospace (now BAE Systems) where she served on the James Webb Space Telescope commissioning team as a wavefront sensing scientist and spent a summer as a Brooke Owens Fellow. Katie recently completed her master's in aerospace engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder and earned a bachelor's degree in astrophysics from Yale University.

Shanmurugan (Shan) SELVAMURUGAN is a PhD candidate in Aerospace Engineering and an NSF Graduate Research Fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He conducts research in the Space Systems Design Laboratory, where he focuses on leveraging distributed space systems to enable in-space servicing, assembly, and manufacturing (ISAM), with an emphasis on reusable in-space transportation. Shan holds both a BS and MS in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech and brings a breadth of experience from the commercial space industry, having worked at SpaceX, Blue Origin (as a Matthew Isakowitz Fellow), Firefly Aerospace, and currently as a GNC engineer at Reditus Space—a startup developing a reusable reentry spacecraft to enable sustainable access to microgravity environments. Shan has also contributed to shaping engagement strategies and leading customer discovery efforts for Georgia Tech's newly launched Space Research Institute, with the goal of helping students pursue impactful careers in the space sector. In his free time, he enjoys cooking, snowboarding, and playing a variety of sports, including basketball and tennis.

1.4 IAF/ISEB Educators Professional Development Workshop

Date: **Saturday 27 October 2025**
Time: **09:00 – 17:00 AEST**
Venue: **Room C4.1, Level 4, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney**

Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth

The Educator Professional Development Workshop on the 27th of September is hosted by the International Space Education Board (ISEB) and the Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC). ISEB members believe that 'Connecting @ll Space People' can be achieved through education. Educators Professional Development Workshop participants will work through practical examples led by educators that aim to inspire students to find their connection to space. Participants are provided with take-away resources to be used in classroom.

Topics range from project-based learning, radio astronomy, satellite construction, toward quantum computing, computational thinking, data-analysis, and general capabilities.

Materials target educators that work with middle years to senior secondary students; ages 12 and up.

Programme

09:00 – 09:30	**Keynote: CSIRO** *Rob Hollow*
09:30 – 10:45	**Session 1: VSSEC** *Considering the Capailities in STEM*
10:45 – 11:00	**Morning Tea**
11:00 – 12:15	**Session 2: ESA** *EO Browser – DIY Earth Observation*
12:15 – 13:00	**Session 3: JAXA** *Communication Puzzle Mini-Workshop*
13:00 – 13:45	**Lunch**
13:45 – 15:00	**Session 4: CSA** *Understanding Lunar Gateway Orbit*
15:00 – 16:15	**Session 5: CSIRO** *Radio Astronomy in Australia*
16:15 – 16:30	**Wrap Up** *Showcase Tour - ISEB members showcase student/teacher materials*

1.5 IAF Cross-Cultural Communications and Presentation Workshop

Date: **Sunday 28 September 2025**
Time: **08:30 – 13:30 AEST**
Venue: **Room C2.3, Level 2, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney**

The Cross-Cultural Communications and Presentation Workshop is organized for Emerging Space Leader grant recipients and Next Generation Plenary speakers to provide them with the opportunity to improve their oral skills for their presentations and to sensitize them to the issues of speaking at large multicultural events.

Session presenters:

Elizabeth BARRIOS

Dr. Elizabeth Barrios is a Materials Engineer at Blue Origin's Engine Factory in Huntsville, Alabama. With expertise in failure analysis, Elizabeth supports and conducts investigations for Blue Origin's engines portfolio. Her work also encompasses multiple development efforts, including vertical integration of various engine production processes, advanced high temperature materials, and ceramic matrix composites. Previously, Elizabeth was an engineer at NASA, where she spent 9 years as a failure analyst supporting both avionics and non-metallic structures for programs including SLS, ISS, the DoD, and the FAA. She has a R&D background in energy conversion and energy storage materials, including thermoelectrics, Peltier cooling, and solid-state Li-ion batteries.

She currently serves as the Chair for the IAF Workforce Development and Young-Professionals Programme Committee and Vice Chair of Honors and Awards for the Space Education and Outreach Committee.

Sapna RAO

Sapna Rao is a Systems Engineer at Lockheed Martin Commercial Civil Space. She has worked on human space exploration missions ranging from the Artemis missions to Cryo Demonstration Missions. Her experience is particularly in Systems Architecture, Machine Learning, and Model Based Systems Engineering. She is also working on climate intelligence data projects and working on the Lockheed Martin New Ventures group working business development projects. Additionally she is a strong proponent of Diversity and Inclusion and works on initiatives at Lockheed Martin, and SGAC. For SGAC, she is the project lead for the Space Exploration Project Group's ACHIEVED RAISE team. She has a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from Virginia Tech.

2 Associated Events

2.1 IAF IDEA "3G+" DIVERSITY PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM FOR DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY IN ASTRONAUTICS
3G GEOGRAPHY • GENERATION • GENDER

"Brilliant minds don't have Age, Gender, Nationality or Handicap. Take the best of all and give diversity a chance!" Jean-Yves Le Gall, IAF President

With the aim of promoting and advancing the principles of "3G+" (Geography, Generation, and Gender) Diversity amongst a global space community the IAF has established an International Platform for Diversity and Equality in Astronautics (IDEA).

The IAF welcomes delegates to participate in the IAC Diversity Activities and benefit from an intensive and open exchange on diversity and equality aspects within the IAF, amongst IAF member organizations as well as other organizations promoting diversity.

2.1.1 IAF IDEA "3G+" Diversity Breakfast

Date: **Wednesday 1 October 2025**
Time: **08:00 – 09:00**
Location: **Parkside 1, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney**

Sponsored by: AIDAA ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA DI AERONAUTICA E ASTRONAUTICA

Programme:

08:00 – 08:05 **Welcome Remarks and Introduction**
Mishaal ASHEMIMRY,
IAF VP for Diversity Initiatives, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

Enrico ZAPPINO
Associate Professor, Politecnico di Torino

08:05 - 08:10 **Presentation by Sponsor**

08:10 - 09:00 **Networking**

2.1.2 IAF Excellence in "3G+" Diversity Award Luncheon

(Upon invitation only)

Date: **Wednesday 1 October 2025**

Time: **12:30 - 13:30**

Location: **Parkside 1, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney**

The IAF Excellence in "3G+" Diversity Awards recognize IAF member organizations (industry, government, academia) worldwide for outstanding contributions to the fostering of "3G" (Geography, Generation, Gender) Diversity within the space sector.

This Luncheon is dedicated to the award ceremony for the 2025 IAF Excellence in "3G+" Diversity Awards, bestowed to The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Women in Aerospace Europe.

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

"With a dynamic community of over 7,600 full-time staff representing 65 countries and regions and comprising a near-equal gender balance of 52% male and 48% female staff, PolyU is strongly committed to fostering both gender and cultural diversity. The University also embraces generational diversity, providing an inclusive environment and encouraging collaboration across different age groups and level of experience. At PolyU, researchers, staff and students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines come together to merge their expertise, driving excellence in education and advancing research and technology for the benefit of mankind."

Women in Aerospace

"Women in Aerospace Europe (WIA-Europe) is a non-profit organisation committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in the aerospace sector by increasing the representation, and leadership of women. It supports career development through networking, mentoring, scholarships, and outreach activities. Promote aerospace professions and STEM studies among the younger generations to enlarge the pool of talents shaping the future aerospace workforce. WIA-Europe works across industry, academia, and policy to foster a more inclusive environment that drives innovation and excellence. The organisation welcomes and encourages the involvement of individuals, regardless of gender, who share same values and aim to excellence in the aerospace sector. With active regional chapters and committed industrial and governmental partners across Europe, WIA-Europe inspires and connects professionals dedicated to shaping the future of aerospace."

Programme:

12:30 – 12:35 **Welcome Remarks**

Mishaal ASHEMIMRY,
IAF VP for Diversity Initiatives, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

Gabriella ARRIGO,
Incoming President, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

12:35 – 12:45 **IAF Excellence in "3G+" Diversity Award Ceremony**

Asanda NTISANA,
IAF VP for Honours and Awards, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

Christina WONG,
Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Luisella GIULICCI,
Women in Aerospace Europe (WIA-E)

12:50 – 13:30 **Networking**

2.2 15th IAF International Meeting for Ministers and Members of Parliaments (Closed Meeting)

Date: **Sunday 28 September 2025**

Time: **09:00 - 14:30**

Venue: **Parkside 1 and 2 at the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney)**

Space the Indispensable Ally for Decision-Makers

Sunday 28 September 2025

The MMoP Meeting will take place in Room Parkside 1 and 2 at the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney), International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025) Venue

09:00 **Welcome Coffee**

09:25 **Group Picture**

09:30 **Welcome Remarks**

- ***Clay Mowry,*** President, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)
- ***Hon. Steve Georganas,*** Federal Member for Adelaide, Co-convenor of the Federal Parliament's Parliamentary Friends of Space, representing the Federal Minister for Industry and Innovation and Minister for Science Senator the Hon. Tim Ayres, and MMoP 2025 Co-Chair, IAC 2025 Host Country
- ***Hon. Emily Suvaal,*** Parliamentary Secretary for Trade and Small Business, New South Wales Government Space
- ***Hon. Judith Collins KC,*** New Zealand Minister for Space
- ***Dominique Tilmans,*** Special Advisor to the IAF President on Parliamentarian and Ministerial Relations and Master of Ceremony of the 15th IAF MMoP Meeting, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

10:15 **Session 1: *Space for Disaster and Risk Management***

Today, we are all exposed to serious vulnerabilities: drought, reduced or excessive rainfall, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, man-made catastrophes… which are menacing our environment putting in danger our lives, our economy and impacting properties, flora, fauna and cultural heritage.

Luckily, Space solutions have the potential to help governments and administrations to manage disaster risks. They play a crucial role in all phases of the disaster risk management cycle: from prevention and preparedness to response and recovery.

*Keynote Speech and Moderation by **Simonetta Cheli**, Director of Earth Observation Programmes and Head of ESRIN, European Space Agency (ESA)*

Interventions by Ministers and Members of Parliaments

Roundtable Discussion

11:15 **Session 2: *Space in Support of Society***

Space solutions play a key role in helping policy-makers address societal challenges and develop policies that meet public needs. Rationalization of traffic management, improvement of public transport, dynamic urban planning, air quality, management of drinking water supplies, optimizing energy and waste without forgetting supporting healthcare and emergency response... Space technology offers valuable solutions in many sectors.

*Keynote Speech and Moderation by **Salem Al Qubaisi**, Director General, UAE Space Agency*

Interventions by Ministers and Members of Parliaments

Roundtable Discussion

12:15 ***Session 3: Space-based Solutions to Safeguard Life on Earth***

Space solutions have become powerful tools for governments to address long-standing challenges. By providing real-time monitoring and precise detection capabilities, these technologies help to combat illegal activities such as illegal fishing, trafficking of goods, discharges from ships on the high seas but also planning sustainable aquaculture activities, monitoring water turbidity, improving the management of marine protected areas.

Space-based solutions have also improved border surveillance, enabling policy makers to implement more effective security measures

Keynote Speech and Moderation by ***Enrico Palermo****, Head, Australian Space Agency*

Interventions by Ministers and Members of Parliaments

Roundtable Discussion

13:15 **Closing Remarks**

- ***Hon. Steve Georganas,*** Federal Member for Adelaide, Co-convenor of the Federal Parliament's Parliamentary Friends of Space, and MMoP 2025 Co-Chair, IAC 2025 Host Country
- ***H.E. Mehmet Fatih Kacır,*** Minister of Industry and Technology of Türkiye, IAC 2026 Host country
- ***Dominique Tilmans,*** Special Advisor to the IAF President on Parliamentarian and Ministerial Relations and Master of Ceremonies of the 15th IAF MMoP Event

13:30 **Lunch Break**

14:30 **MMoP Cultural Visit – *"Aboriginal Harbour Heritage Tour"* of the Botanic Gardens of Sydney**

Transfer will be provided from the Parliament of New South Wales to the location of the Cultural visit.

19:00 **IAF International Meeting for Ministers and Members of Parliaments Cocktail and Dinner**
Sydney Opera House
Bennelong Point, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

- ***Clay Mowry***, President, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)
- ***Hon. Anoulack Chanthivong***, Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading, Minister for Industry and Trade, Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology, Minister for Building, and Minister for Corrections
- ***Dominique Tilmans***, Special Advisor to the IAF President on Parliamentarian and Ministerial Relations and Master of Ceremony of the 15th IAF MMoP Meeting, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

Monday 29 September 2025

The IAC 2025 will take place at the International Convention Centre Sydney (ICC Sydney) located in 14 Darling Dr., Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

08:30 – 09:15 **VIP Gathering** – *ICC Sydney (IAC 2025 venue, Pyrmont Foyer)*

09:30 – 11:00 **IAC 2025 Opening Ceremony**
ICC Sydney, Darling Harbour Theatre - Reserved VIP Seats for the MMoPs

11:15 – 12:15 **Exhibition Opening**
ICC Sydney, Exhibition Area

12:30 – 13:30 **VIP Luncheon** – *ICC Sydney, Parkside 1*

13:45 – 15:15 **Plenary Event 1: One to One with Heads of Agencies**
ICC Sydney, Darling Harbour Theatre

15:15 – 18:00 **Free time** to visit the Exhibition and attending the IAF GNFs Sessions and other portions of the IAC 2025 Programme

18:15 – 19:15 **Plenary Event 2: IAC 2025 Host Plenary *"The power of First Nations' cultural and scientific knowledge to shape a sustainable global space sector"***
ICC Sydney, Darling Harbour Theatre

19:30 – 22:30 **IAC 2025 Welcome Reception**
Kensington Street, Chippendale

Tuesday 30 September 2025

08:00 – 08:45 **Industry Breakfast**
ICC Sydney, Parkside 1

09:00 – 10:00 **Plenary Event 3: *"How a Circular Economy Framework Unlocks Commercial Success in Space"***
ICC Sydney, Pyrmont Theatre

10:00 – 12:30 **Free time** to visit the Exhibition and attending the IAF GNFs Sessions and other portions of the IAC 2025 Programme

12:30 – 13:30 **Industry VIP Luncheon**
ICC Sydney, Parkside 1

2.3 IAC Hosts Summit – 12th EDITION

Date: **Sunday 28 September 2025**
Time: **10:30 – 13:00**
Venue: **Cockle Bay, Level 3, International Convention & Exhibition Centre (ICC) Sydney**

Time:	Programme
	Introductory Video
Opening	**Welcome by Master of Ceremony** • ***Peter MARTINEZ,*** *Chair of the IAF Congress and Symposium Advisory Committee (CSAC) / President, Secure World Foundation (SWF)*
Keynote	**by Sponsor "Swissmem": The Way to Mars Goes Through Switzerland - Fueled by Innovation IAC2029**
	• ***Raoul KELLER,*** *Secretary General SSIG, Swissmem, Switzerland* • ***David COUGOULE,*** *Senior Manager Convention Bureau, Geneva Tourism & Conventions Foundation, Switzerland*
Panel Discussion	**Securing Sponsorship: The Backbone of a Successful IAC** *In the challenging landscape of IAC planning, securing sponsors is crucial for not only funding but also enhancing the overall experience for attendees. A robust IAC exhibition provides a platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and showcasing innovations. To attract sponsors, it is essential to demonstrate value through tailored packages, targeted outreach, and engaging promotional strategies. By prioritizing these elements, the Host can forge robust relationships with sponsors that elevate the congress and drive mutual success. This panel will explore best practices, share case studies, and discuss innovative approaches to sponsorship strategy within the IAC context.*
Moderator:	• ***Steve EISENHART,*** *Past IAF VP for Global Networking Forum (IAF GNF) / Vice President for Strategic & International Affairs, Space Foundation, United States*
Panellists:	- ***Dunay BADIRKHANOV,*** *Chair of the Board (a/g) of Azercosmos, The Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan / IAC 2023 IPC Co-Chair* - ***Christian FEICHTINGER,*** *Executive Director, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)* - ***Lionel SUCHET,*** *Chairman of the IAC 2022 Local Organizing Committee / President-CEO, Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales (CNES)* - ***Lisa VITARIS,*** *Director IAC 2025, Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA)* - ***Enrico ZAPPINO****, Executive Project Manager of AIDAA, IAC 2024 / Member of the IAF Congress and Symposium Advisory Committee (CSAC)*
Pitch Presentation	**Ready to Take Off: Pitching Your IAC Vision for 2028** *An interactive session where future bidders present their unique visions for IAC 2028. The session will conclude with a drawing of lots featuring questions prepared by the IAF Congress and Symposium Advisory Committee (CSAC). Each participant will have one minute to respond to their question.*
	• ***Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain:*** *by Bahrain Space Agency (BSA)* • ***Mumbai, India:*** *by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)* • ***Samarkand, Uzbekistan****: by Uzbekspace Agency*

Coffee break

Fireside Chat	**Hosting the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) as a Bridge for Unity** *The ethical implications of hosting the IAC amid geopolitical tensions require a careful balance. While the event can serve as a platform for unity and collaboration, it must also address the challenges posed by national policies and funding restrictions. Engage in a thought-provoking debate about the ethical implications of bidding for the IAC amidst geopolitical tensions, exploring how hosting the IAC can serve as a bridge for cultural and political unity, and ensuring that the congress remains a beacon for international collaboration in space and inclusiveness allowing Bone Fide participants from all over the world to attend.*
Moderator:	• ***Christian FEICHTINGER,*** *Executive Director, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)*
Panellists:	- ***Maria Antonietta PERINO****, Director for Space Economy Exploration and International Network, Thales Alenia Space Italia / Vice-Chair of IAF Congress and Symposia Advisory Committee (CSAC)* - ***Jeremy HALLETT,*** *Executive Chair, Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA), Australia* - ***Arif KARABEYOĞLU,*** *Board Member, Turkish Space Agency (TUA), Türkiye / IPC Co-Chair for IAC 2026, Türkiye* - ***Clay MOWRY,*** *President, International Astronautical Federation (IAF) / CEO, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), United States* - ***Łukasz WILCZYŃSKI,*** *Chair of IAC 2027 Local Organizing Committee / President, European Space Foundation (ESF), Poland*
Closing	**Closing Remarks by Master of Ceremony**
	• ***Peter MARTINEZ,*** *Chair of the IAF Congress and Symposium Advisory Committee (CSAC) / President, Secure World Foundation (SWF)*
	Group Photo
13:00 – 14:00	**IAC Hosts Summit Luncheon**

Sponsored by: SWISSMEM Space Technology GENEVA

2.4 The 32nd IAF Workshop with the Support of the United Nations on "Resilient Coasts, Resilient Earth: Innovative Space Solutions for Coastal Resilience and Emergency Management"

Date: **26 – 28 September 2025**
Time: **09:00 – 18:00**
Venue: **Room C3.4, C3.5 & C3.6, Level 3, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney**

Organized by:

UNITED NATIONS Office for Outer Space Affairs

INTRODUCTION

For more than thirty years, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the United Nations have co-organized a technical workshop ahead of each IAC embracing the theme "Space Technology for Socio-Economic Benefits". In 2025, the workshop will adopt a new dual focus—Space for Oceans and disaster-risk management—reflecting the IAC 2025 theme: "Sustainable Space : Resilient Earth."

Space for Oceans highlights the critical role of space-based technologies in supporting ocean stewardship, advancing SDG 14, and safeguarding the world's coasts. By linking the space and marine communities, the theme emphasizes how satellite data, Earth observation missions, and capacity-building efforts can empower frontline coastal nations to protect ocean health. Coordinated action among space agencies, research organizations, and Small Island Developing States unlocks actionable information for tackling challenges such as sea-level rise, illegal fishing, and marine pollution.

The three-day event will convene government officials, space-agency and marine-science experts, civil-protection authorities, academia, NGOs and industry to:

- accelerate capacity-building in developing and frontline nations on the use of satellite applications for both ocean stewardship and disaster-risk reduction;
- forge partnerships—particularly for Small Island Developing States—and expand user training through the UN-SPIDER programme and the emerging Space4Ocean Alliance.

Organized by the International Astronautical Federation with the support of the United Nations through UN SPIDER program and Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO), the Workshop takes place from 26 to 28 September 2025.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The Workshop will:

Highlight synergies by showcasing the complementary role of Space for Oceans and disaster/emergency applications, demonstrating how space-derived data can simultaneously strengthen coastal hazard early warning systems, enable marine pollution tracking, and facilitate rapid post-disaster response.

Increase understanding of the UN-SPIDER programme and share global lessons learned and best practices in space-based ocean and disaster management with decision-makers, especially from Asia-Pacific, Pacific Island countries, and other SIDS/LDCs.

Present real-world applications of Earth Observation (EO), GeoAI, digital twins, IoT, and cloud platforms for building resilient coastal cities, ensuring sustainable fisheries, and supporting emergency logistics.

Foster new partnerships that integrate satellite solutions into national disaster risk reduction frameworks and ocean policy instruments, directly contributing to the advancement of SDGs 13 (Climate Action) and 14 (Life Below Water).

PROGRAMME

Day 1: Friday 26 September 2025	
09:00 – 10:00	**Registration and refreshments**
10:00 – 10:15	**Opening ceremony**
	• *Clay Mowry, President, IAF* • *Recorded message by Aarti Holla-Maini, Director, UNOOSA*
10:15 – 10:40	**Opening Remarks**
	• ***Christian Feichtinger,*** *Executive Director, IAF* • ***Pieter van Beekhuizen,*** *Chair, IAF Committee for Liaison with International Organizations and Developing Nations (CLIODN)* • ***Matias Campos,*** *Vice Chair of Committee on Connecting Emerging Space ecoSystems (ACCESS) (Steering Group) (2024-2027)*
10:45 – 11:00	**Group photo**
10:50 – 11:00	**Setting the scene**
	• ***Hamid Mehmood,*** *Scientific Affairs Officer, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)* • ***Madin Maseeh,*** *President, Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO)*
11:00 – 12:00	**Presentation Session 1: From Atolls to Continents: Scaling Space Solutions for Coastal Resilience** *This session dives into the practical application of space technology for coastal resilience, showcasing a powerful spectrum of solutions from the community level to regional governance and cutting-edge sensor technology. Participants will gain insight into operational tools and strategies through diverse, real-world case studies.*
	Chair: ***Tom Gardner,*** *Strategic Partnerships Lead, Maldives Space Research Organisation.*
	• ***Mohamed Basheer,*** *President, Noonu Atoll Council, Maldives* • ***Lizwe Wandile Mdakane,*** *Principal Researcher, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa* • ***Meka Rajasekhar,*** *Scientist-SG / Manager Indian Space Research Organisation, India*
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch break** *Level 3 Pre-Function Area*
13:00 – 13:45	**Networking**
	Dedicated introductions, and thematic tables *Plenary Room C 3.2, Room C3.4 and C3.5*
13:45 – 15:15	**Panel Discussion 1: Re-Rooting Disaster Management: The Role of Space Technology in Strengthening Nature-Based Solutions** *This panel will explore how users are harnessing space technology to both preserve critical nature-based solutions and defend coastal environments. The discussion will focus on translating satellite data into actionable policy, balancing economic development with environmental stewardship, and building climate resilience from the ground up.*
	Moderator: *Pieter van Beekhuizen, Chairman IAF CLIODN Commitee*

	• ***Richard Ngugi Mwangi,*** *Chief Geo-database Administrator and GIS Developer, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya* • ***Anja Nakarada Pecujlic,*** *Head of Business for the DACH region, EnduroSat, Germany* • ***Michael John Wellington,*** *Senior Earth Observation Scientist, Digital Earth Africa, Australia* • ***Abdulla Hafiz,*** *Meteorologist, Maldives Meteorological Service, Maldives*
15:15 – 15:30	**Coffee break** *Level 3 Pre-Function Area*
15:30 – 17:00	**Panel Discussion 2: SIDS, Satellites, and Sovereignty: Transforming Ocean Resource Stewardship from Space** *Small Island Developing States (SIDS) oversee vast ocean territories rich in resources but face growing challenges in managing them sustainably. This panel explores how space-based technologies are empowering SIDS to enhance monitoring capabilities while also supporting equitable, sustainable, and sovereign stewardship of ocean resources—placing SIDS at the forefront of a new era in ocean governance.*
	Moderator: *Raushan Ali Firaq,* *Director, Maldives Space Research Organisation*
	• ***Thongwane Lerato Namane,*** *Director: Commercial, SCS Aerospace Group, South Africa* • ***Rémi Andreoli,*** *CEO, Quintesens, Australia* • ***Felix Xavier Estico,*** *CEO, Seychelles Centre for Innovation and Sustainable Development, Seychelles* • ***George Joseph Carter,*** *Senior Fellow and Deputy Head of the Department of Pacific Affairs, The Australian National University, Australia* • ***Dominique Tilmans,*** *Chair, Chair of Eurisy, Belgium*
17:00 – 17:30	**Academic Pitches 1: Risk, Response, Residue: The Disaster Lifecycle from Orbit**
	Chair: • ***Alba Rebeca Gutierrez Melendez,*** *Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Dynamic Genesis, Mexico-Sweden* • ***Sackdavong Mangkhauseum,*** *Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, National University of Laos, Laos* • ***Unis Musu Lebbie,*** *Remote Sensing Research Technician, University of Southampton, Sierra Leone* • ***Hanadi Abdalla,*** *Researcher, Electrical and Space Systems Engineering, Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech), Sudan*
17:30 –18:00	**Networking** *Dedicated introductions, and thematic tables* *Plenary Room C 3.2, Room C3.4*
END OF DAY 1	
Day 2: Saturday 27 September 2025	
09:00 – 10:00	**Registration and refreshments**
10:00 – 10:15	**Keynote: Koji, Ocean Solutions Technology**
10:15 – 11:45	**Panel Discussion 3: A Spectrum of Resilience: The role of Communities in Space-Based Disaster Risk Management** *How can we ensure that space-based solutions for disaster management effectively serve the people on the front lines?* *Chaired/moderated by UN-SPIDER, will explore the essential role of community engagement across the full disaster management cycle. Speakers, ranging from national authorities to on-the-ground practitioners, will discuss a spectrum of approaches for translating satellite data into actionable local knowledge.* *The session will focus on strategies for building inclusive and effective models of resilience, highlighting how to bridge the gap between advanced technological capabilities and the real-world needs of at-risk communities.*

	Chair/Moderator: UN-SPIDER
	• ***Teresa Gabriela Montoya Mejía,*** *National Coordinator of the Sectoral Technical Commissions, National Civil Protection System in El Salvador, El Salvador* • ***Roxy Williams,*** *Software engineer, science communicator, and space advocate, Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), Nicaragua* • ***Rachita Agrawal,*** *Doctorate Candidate, GGS Indraprastha University, Delhi, India*
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch Break** *Level 3 Pre-Function Area*
13:00 – 14:30	**Panel Discussion 4: Pilot to Planet: Scaling Innovative Missions into Operational Services** *Many innovative space missions show great potential but never achieve widespread operational use. What does it take to successfully scale a pilot project into a sustainable service that supports global resilience? This forward-looking panel will bring together experts from government, the private sector, and research organizations to discuss the complete innovation pipeline.* *Panellists will explore strategies for ensuring data continuity, securing long-term funding, and bridging the critical gap between promising prototypes and their successful, large-scale implementation.* *(Relevant for Space for Oceans)*
	Moderator:
	• Hoda Awny Abdelsalam Aboelkhir, System Design Engineer, Egyptian Space Agency, Egypt • Fama Jallow, Founder, Hisia, The Gambia • Ahmed Nashwaan Abdul Matheen, Research Coordinator for EO, Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO), Maldives
14:30 – 16:00	**Panel Discussion 5: Digital Oceans, Resilient Cities: EO, GeoAI, and Digital Twins in Action** *This panel will delve into how cutting-edge technologies like Earth Observation (EO), geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI), and Digital Twins are being harnessed to model coastal dynamics, predict risks, and support resilient infrastructure planning. The session will showcase examples of digital innovation that bridge the ocean-urban interface, supporting both environmental protection and disaster risk reduction.*
	Moderator: ***Valrie Grant,*** *Strategic Advisor on Geospatial Matters; Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); Caribbean Lead, Fugro- Climate and Nature.*
	• ***Ahmed Nashwaan Abdul Matheen,*** *Research Coordinator for EO, Maldives Space Research Organisation (MSRO), Maldives* • ***Andiswa Mlisa,*** *Digital Earth Pacific Programme Manager, The Pacific Community (SPC), New Caledonia* • ***Mohamed Rajhi,*** *Project Manager and Remote Sensing Scientist, UDENE project/Tunisian Space Association, Tunisia*
16:00 – 16:45	**Coffee Break** *Level 3 Pre-Function Area*
16:45 – 17:45	**Presentation Session 2: Better Data for Timely Action: The Building Blocks of Satellite-Enabled Early Warning** *This session explores the essential components of effective, satellite-enabled early warning systems, from foundational global datasets to tailored national applications. Experts from national space programs and the private sector will demonstrate how different technologies serve as the building blocks for timely action.*
	Chair:
	• ***Thanya Tamara Idoyaga Irala,*** *GIS Analyst, Paraguayan Space Agency, Paraguay* • ***Farah Diya Yasmine,*** *Legislative Drafter, House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, Indonesia* • ***Matteo Emanuelli,*** *Program Manager and Earth Observation Expert, Airbus, Germany* • ***Daniel Sors Raurell,*** *Head of Services and Industrial Promotion Office, Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC), Spain*

18:00	**Networking Reception hosted by IAF**

Sunday 28 September 2025	
09:00 – 10:00	**Registration and refreshments**
10:00 – 11:30	**Panel Discussion 6: Resilience Reimagined: Forging Partnerships Across Technology, Culture, and Policy** *Achieving coastal resilience at scale requires moving beyond traditional collaborations. This high-level panel explores the future of partnership, showcasing innovative and often unexpected alliances that are critical for advancing ocean health and climate action under the UN SDGs. The discussion will move beyond theory to explore the practical application of partnership in its many forms: Join this forward-looking dialogue to discover the missing links in our current approach and reimagine the partnerships needed to protect our coasts for future generations.* *(Relevant for Space for Oceans)*
	Moderator:
	• ***Priyanka Das Rajkakati,*** *Head of Special Projects at vorteX-io, India-France*
11:30 – 12:15	**Fireside Chat: From surviving to thriving: How space technology, modern tools and innovative partnerships unlock new possibilities in Disaster Risk Resilience.** *The Asia-Pacific region faces an evolving mix of climate and human-induced disaster risks. This diverse panel brings together National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMOs) from coastal nations to discuss how countries are leveraging new developments in space-based technologies and AI to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery.* *They will share insights on using Earth observation, satellite communications, and early warning systems to address threats such as coastal inundation, extreme weather, and environmental degradation. The session will explore opportunities for cross- border coordination and capacity-building, highlighting regional leadership in adapting to the challenges of a changing world.*
	Moderator:
	• ***Abdulllah Rafeeu,*** *Emergency Operations Manager, National Disaster Management Authority , Maldives* • ***John Strickland,*** *Director of the Cook Islands Emergency Response, Cook Islands* • ***Farid Gamgami,*** *Head of Department at the Innovation Academy for Microsatellites, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Vice Director of Key Laboratory for Satellite Digitalization Technology (CAS), China*
12:15 – 12:30	**Wrap-up**
12:30 – 12:45	**Closing ceremony**
	• ***Aarti Holla-Maini,*** *Director, UNOOSA* • ***Anil Kumar,*** *IAF Vice President for Relations with International Organizations* • ***Pilar Zamora Acevedo, I****AF Vice President for Developing Countries and Emerging Communities* • ***Dr. Ayhan Incirci,*** *Director of International Relations of the Turkish Space Agency (TUA); Director General of the External Relations and Legal Affairs Department at the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO)*
12:45 – 13:00	**Group photo**
	END OF THE WORKSHOP
13:00 – 13:30	**Lunch** *Level 3 Pre-Function Area*

2.5 23rd Space Generation Congress (SGC)

Date: **25 - 27 September 2025**

Venue: **The Collider: 477 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW 2000**

SPACE GENERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

THE GLOBAL SPACE CONGRESS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS INTERESTED IN TODAY'S KEY SPACE ISSUES

The Space Generation Congress (SGC) is the annual meeting of the Space Generation Advisory Council always held in conjunction with the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) at the same hosting country. Every year, the SGC event receives about 150 outstanding students and young professionals who share a passion for space. Through the SGC, SGAC aims to give a voice to the young generation of space leaders so that they can share their opinions and perspectives concerning international space development. They are selected with a highly competitive application process open to our Space Generation international network. With SGC, SGAC aims to promote the voice of the next generation of space sector leaders on the topic of international space development.

The 23rd edition of the Space Generation Congress (SGC) aims to bring together the next generation of space leaders to discuss the two-folded dimensions of sustainability: in space and on earth. Under the title of "Next-Gen Space Leaders: Innovating an Equitable and Sustainable Access to Space for the Future," we invite you to join us in shaping a future where equity and sustainability serves as the guiding principle in our journey to the stars.

SGC 2025 Programme

The whole program is set in AEST. The Progamme is subject to change.

Please refer to the official website for additional updates (https://spacegeneration.org/sgc2025).

Thursday 25 September 2025	
11:30	Doors Open + Registration + Welcome Coffee Welcome
12:15	Remarks
13:00	Interactive Activity
13:45	Working Group Time
14:00	*LUNCH BREAK*
15:00	Working Group Time
15:45	*COFFEE BREAK*
16:00	Keynote
16:45	Interactive Activity
17:15	Scholarship Winners Presentation
18:10	Closing Remarks
19:00	**International Night**

Friday 26 September 2025	
07:30	Delegate Arrival
08:00	Welcome Remarks
08:15	Interactive Activity
09:00	Working Group Time
10:00	*COFFEE BREAK*
10:45	Working Group Time
13:00	*LUNCH BREAK*
14:00	Panel Session
14:30	Mentoring Session
15:45	*COFFEE BREAK*
16:15	Working Group Time
18:30	Closing Remarks
19:00	***SPACE NIGHT***

Saturday 27 September 2025	
07:30	Delegate Arrival
08:00	Welcome Remarks
08:15	Panel Session
09:30	Keynote
10:30	*COFFEE BREAK*
11:00	**Working Group Presentations**
13:45	*LUNCH BREAK*
14:30	**Interactive Activity**
15:15	Keynote
16:00	Panel Session
17:00	*COFFEE BREAK*
17:30	Keynote
18:00	Closing Remarks
19:30	***SGC 2025 GALA DINNER***

2.6 IAF Public Speaking and Presentation Skills Lab

Date: **Sunday 28 September 2025**
Time: **16:00 – 18:00 (AEST)**
Venue: **Room C4.8, ICC Convention Center, Level 4**

Master public speaking and join us at the IAF Public Speaking and Presentation Skills Lab (IAF PS Lab) held in conjunction with the 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025), in Sydney, Australia:

Whether you are pitching a space startup, presenting research for the first time, or making new connections - your voice matters. Let's make sure it lands with impact.

Moderator:

Matías F. CAMPOS ABAD
CEO & Founder,
Astralintu Space Technologies,
Vice-Chair,
IAF Administrative Committee for Connecting Emerging Space ecoSystems (ACCESS)

Co-Moderators:

Alina VIZIREANU
GIS Manager,
Milton Keynes City Council, UK Local Government

Ioana Roxana PERRIER
Professor Space Science and Physics,
IPSA (Institut polytechnique des sciences avancées) Air and Space Engineering School

Introduction:

The International Astronautical Congress gathers people from all over the world to advance the space industry, academia, society, and government initiatives. Even if we do not like sales, the reality is that we are constantly selling and representing our personal, country, and organization's image. That is why harnessing the ability to speak in public is a fundamental tool for promoting ourselves, and our work.

Objective:

The main objective of the IAF PS Lab is to help each participant develop and improve their communication skills when speaking in public, overcome the stress derived from stage fright, improve self-esteem, learn to use appropriate and timely resources in different situations, adequately use body and language in speeches, learn to confidently address any audience, understand cultural considerations of an international crowd, and thus effectively get your message.

Throughout this workshop, participants will acquire the necessary skills to achieve effective and successful communication in the context of a high-level technology forum where space research and development initiatives are shared.

Who is IAF PS Lab for:

Speakers, students, scholarship awardees, and IAC participants and in general, who feel the need to overcome stage fright and improve their communication skills in public and private environments, to impact and persuade any audience and make the most of their time in the congress and maximizing their networking and presentations.

After PS Lab Participants will be able to:

- Present themselves with confidence
- Overcome stress derived from stage fright
- Use body and non-verbal language effectively
- Leave an impact and encourage future collaboration
- Navigate the cultural differences of an international crowd

Agenda:

Duration: 2 hours
30min - IAC Communication Best Practices and Lessons from Experience
30min - Elevator Pitch Session and Practice
50min - Lighting Presentations with live feedback
10min – Wrap-Up & Takeaways

The laboratory will include:

Practical teaching with dynamic forms of participation
Helpful exercises and real on-stage experience
Practice skills with real networking in smaller groups
Learn from your peers

2.7 IAF Global Space Leaders Summit

"Space Capabilities for Sustainability on Earth"

Closed Event (upon invitation only)

Date: **Tuesday 30 September 2025**
Time: **10:30 – 12:30**
Venue: **Grand Ballroom, Level 5, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney**

Bringing together the foremost leaders of the global space community, the IAF Global Leaders Summit stands as a premier and exclusive platform for strategic dialogue among the heads of the world's space agencies and national space offices. This distinguished forum convenes the key decision-makers who are collectively shaping the future of space policy, exploration, and cooperation on a global scale.

The second edition of the IAF Global Space Leaders Summit, jointly organized by the International Astronautical Federation, and our esteemed IAF Member since 2011 and IAC 2025 Co-Host – the Australian Space Agency, will take place on 30 September 2025 in Sydney, Australia, in conjunction with the 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025) under the visionary theme "Global Space Governance: Shaping the Future Together."

Following the landmark 2024 Inaugural Session of the IAF Global Space Leaders Summit, where each of the 60 participating Heads of Agencies delivered official statements to their global counterparts, the 2025 edition will adopt a highly interactive format.

Participants will engage during four exclusive closed-door, moderated roundtables focusing each on the timely topics of Space Exploration, Earth Observation, Security, and Space Diplomacy, offering an unparalleled opportunity for shared vision, candid dialogue, and strategic alignment.

In tribute to the exceptional leadership of its participants, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) proudly presents the unique IAF Global Space Leader's Pin – a uniquely crafted emblem featuring a moonstone with a unique serial number. This pin stands as a rare symbol of excellence in space leadership and as lasting token of the leader's esteemed contribution to advancing the global space agenda.

Recognizing the vital need for continued collaboration at the highest level, and building on the momentum of last year's success of the inaugural session, the second edition of the IAF Global Space Leaders Summit reaffirms the Federation's commitment to empowering those at the helm of space governance.

Selected International Space Organizations will be also invited to attend the Summit as observers.

Master of Ceremony:

Christian FEICHTINGER
Executive Director,
International Astronautical Federation (IAF),
France

Programme

Master of Ceremony:

Christian FEICHTINGER

Executive Director,
International Astronautical Federation (IAF),
France

10:30 – 10:40	**Opening of the Summit**

Welcome remarks by:

Clay MOWRY

President,
International Astronautical Federation (IAF),
United States

Enrico PALERMO

Head,
Australian Space Agency (ASA),
Australia

10:45 – 11:10	**Round table on SPACE EXPLORATION**

Moderator:

Sean DUFFY

Acting Administrator,
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA),
United States

11:10 – 11:35	**Round table on EARTH OBSERVATION**

Moderator:

Lisa CAMPBELL

President,
Canadian Space Agency (CSA),
Canada

11:35 – 12:00	**Round table on SECURITY**

Moderator:

Josef ASCHBACHER

Director General,
European Space Agency (ESA),
France

12:00 – 12:25	**Round table on SPACE DIPLOMACY**

Moderator:

Hiroshi YAMAKAWA

President,
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA),
Japan

12:25 – 12:30	**Closing of the Summit**

3 Social Events

Welcome Reception

Date: Monday 29 September 2025
Time: 19:30 – 21:30 (AEST)
Location: Kensington Street, Chippendale

Gala Dinner

Date: Friday 03 October 2025
Time: 19:00 – 22:00 (AEST)
Location: Grand Ballroom, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney
Cost: 240.00 € per person (VAT included)

Under the Southern Stars is more than a theme. It is a celebration of life after dark in the Southern Hemisphere: the glow of sunset, the constellations that have guided Indigenous Australians for millennia, and the spirit of a nation that comes alive at night.

This elegant evening will weave together fine dining, exquisite entertainment, and cultural storytelling to create an atmosphere that is both sophisticated and unforgettable. Throughout the night, live performances will evoke the sounds, colours, and character of Australia's nocturnal landscape, offering a fresh and elevated take on Australiana.

The Gala Dinner is not only a social highlight of IAC 2025, but also a rare opportunity to connect with fellow delegates, industry leaders, and dignitaries in a truly memorable setting.

4 IAF Awards 2025

4.1 IAF World Space Award

The IAF World Space Award is presented during the **IAC 2025 Opening Ceremony on Monday 29 September 2025** for outstanding contributions in space science, space technology, space medicine, space law or space management of exceptional impact to the world's progress in astronautics.

The **IAF World Space Award for 2025 (for individuals)** is bestowed to:

Jeff BEZOS

BLUE ORIGIN

"Mr. Bezos is the founder of Blue Origin, whose vision is to build a road to space for the benefit of Earth. This vision, which has guided Mr. Bezos since he was a child, is in perfect alignment with the International Astronautical Congress' 2025 theme, "Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth." Blue Origin has achieved several key milestones in 2025, including the successful first launch of New Glenn, which makes 2025 an excellent year to recognize Mr. Bezos."

The **IAF World Space Award for 2025 (for team)** is bestowed to:

Chang'E-6 Mission

中国探月 CLEP

"The Chang'E-6 Mission: the world's first lunar sampling return from the far-side of the Moon marks a historical milestone in human lunar exploration."

IAF World Space Award

4.2 IAF Excellence in International Cooperation Award

The IAF Excellence in International Cooperation Award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in their efforts to promote and facilitate global engagement and cooperation in the space sector.

The **IAF Excellence in International Cooperation Award for 2025** is bestowed to:

Pascale EHRENFREUND

President,
Committee of Space Research (COSPAR),
Research Professor of Space Policy and International Affairs at the Space Policy Institute,
George Washington University
Austria

"Prof. Pascale Ehrenfreund is the President of the Committee of Space Research (COSPAR) and Research Professor of Space Policy and International Affairs at the Space Policy Institute/George Washington University in Washington DC. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Space Foundation and as Member of the Global Future Council on Space of the World Economic Forum. For three decades she contributed as Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator and Teamleader to ESA and NASA astronomy and planetary missions as well as experiments in low Earth orbit and on the International Space Station. Pascale Ehrenfreund was the President of the International Space University (2021-2023), the President International Astronautical Federation (2019-2022), the Chair of the Executive Board of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) (2015-2020) and the President of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) (2013-2015). Pascale Ehrenfreund is enlisted in the Stanford World Ranking Top 2% Scientists 2022 and holds a Master degree in Molecular Biology, a PhD in Astrophysics, and a Master degree in Management & Leadership. The asteroid "9826 Ehrenfreund 2114 T-3" bears her name."

IAF Excellence in International Cooperation Award

4.3 IAF Excellence in "3G+" Diversity Award

The **IAF Excellence in "3G+" Diversity Award** is intended to recognize IAF member organisations (industry, government, academia) and within IAF member organizations worldwide for their outstanding contributions to the fostering of "3G+" (Geography, Generation, Gender) Diversity within the space sector.

The **IAF Excellence in "3G+" Diversity Award 2025 – Internal 3G+ Impact** is bestowed to:

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

"With a dynamic community of over 7,600 full-time staff representing 65 countries and regions and comprising a near-equal gender balance of 52% male and 48% female staff, PolyU is strongly committed to fostering both gender and cultural diversity. The University also embraces generational diversity, providing an inclusive environment and encouraging collaboration across different age groups and level of experience. At PolyU, researchers, staff and students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines come together to merge their expertise, driving excellence in education and advancing research and technology for the benefit of mankind."

The **IAF Excellence in "3G+" Diversity Award 2025 – External 3G+ Impact** is bestowed to:

Women in Aerospace

4.4 IAF Excellence in Industry Award

The IAF Excellence in Industry Award is intended to distinguish commercial industry organizations, members or non-members of the IAF, worldwide for introducing innovative space technologiesto the global marketplace and are recognized throughoutspace industry for successfully executing landmark space missions.

The **IAF Excellence in Industry Award for 2025** is bestowed to:

OHB

"OHB System AG is the largest subsidiary of the German space and technology group OHB SE and one of the three leading providers of space systems in Europe. Headquartered in Bremen and with a second strong site in Oberpfaffenhofen near Munich, OHB System AG has more than 40 years of experience in the development of high-tech solutions for space missions and other applications. The company's activities focus on the development of satellite systems for Earth observation, navigation, telecommunication, science, and reconnaissance and are supplemented by the conception and realization of equipment for crewed space flight. We.Create.Space."

The **IAF Excellence in Industry Award 2025 – Small & Medium Category** is bestowed to:

D-Orbit

"D-Orbit is a market leader in the space logistics and transportation services industry with a track record of space-proven services, technologies, and successful missions.

Founded in 2011, D-Orbit is the first company addressing the logistics needs of the space market. ION Satellite Carrier, for example, is a space vehicle that can transport satellites in orbit and release them individually into distinct orbital slots, reducing the time from launch to operations by up to 85% and the launch costs of an entire satellite constellation by up to 40%. ION can also accommodate multiple third-party payloads like innovative technologies developed by startups, experiments from research entities, and instruments from space companies requiring a test in orbit. Finally, ION can also be rented for edge computing applications and space cloud services to provide satellite operators with storage capacity and advanced computing capabilities in orbit. D-Orbit's roadmap includes becoming a relevant player in the in-orbit servicing market, which is forecasted to become one of the largest, growing markets within the space sector.

In April 2025, the company announced a strategic business combination with the Planetek group to integrate new capabilities in cloud-based space applications, AI-powered data processing in orbit, and near real-time data services.
With offices in Italy, Portugal, Greece, the UK, and an experienced US team focused on bus design, manufacturing, and commercialization,

D-Orbit is the world's first certified B-Corp space company and a registered benefit corporation."

IAF Excellence in Industry Award

4.5 IAF Hall of Fame

The **IAF Hall of Fame** is intended to create a standing forum of personalities that have contributed substantially to the progress of space science, technology and space benefits to humankind, within the framework of the IAF activities. It will consist of a permanent gallery of these personalities, including a citation, biographical information, and a picture, in a special part of the IAF web presence.

The **IAF Hall of Fame for 2025** is bestowed to:

Jeffrey MANBER
Special Representative to the Chairman & CEO,
Voyager Technologies

Tetsuo YASAKA
Professor Emeritus,
Kyushu University
Founder,
Institute for Q-shu Pioneers of Space

"Jeffrey Manber is a visionary in commercial space and a leader in international cooperation in space. Mr. Manber transformed utilization of space, from forging the first commercial contracts between NASA and Russia, to co-founding Nanoracks and leading the development of Voyager's Bishop Airlock to shaping Voyager's global growth and Starlab partnerships. For decades, his pioneering contributions have expanded the frontiers of exploration, making space more accessible and beneficial to humanity."

"Over his illustrious 60-year career, Dr. Yasaka has played a transformative role in the space industry, pioneering advancements in space technology, education, and industrial development while his visionary leadership and innovations have driven technological progress, fostered international collaboration, and shaped the foundation of modern space exploration, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to inspire the global space community."

IAF Hall of Fame

4.6 Frank J. Malina Astronautics Medal

The **Frank J. Malina Astronautics Medal** is presented annually to an educator who has demonstrated excellence in using his/her available resources to promote the study of astronautics and related space sciences.

Frank J. Malina
(1912 – 1981)

The **Frank J. Malina Astronautical Medal for 2025** is bestowed to:

Bernard FOING
CEO,
ILEWG LUNEX EuroMoonMars,
President ,
Space Renaissance International,
Chief Scientist ,
QOSMOSYS

"Prof. Bernard H. Foing, president Space Renaissance International, executive director of ILEWG, CEO LUNEX EuroSpaceHub and EuroMoonMars Earth Space Innovation, Qomosys Chief Scientist. ERA chair at Riga Latvia, guest Prof at Leiden observatory, ISU, IPSA and formerly EPFL, VU Amsterdam . Member IAF committees (IPC, space exploration, astronomy, space habitats, traffic management, ITACCUS former chair), founder of ArtMoonMars and MoonGallery. Full member International Academy of Astronautics since 2010, vice-chair COSPAR planetary and PEX Panel on Exploration Panel, co-director IMA International Moonbase Alliance, founder Moon Village & MVA, EGU space instrumentation officer. Former ESA Chief Scientist, senior advisor to DG, chair of ESTEC staff association committee (2012-2017) & SMART-1 Lead scientist. Co-Investigator of SOHO, XMM, BIOPAN, SMART-1, Mars Express, COROT, ISS/ Expose, BIOMEX, ExoMars. Publications : 980 articles, including 240 refereed papers. Edited 10 Books. Academics : Habilitation 1990. He has been working at CNRS, and as post-doc astronomer ESO European Southern Observatory Chile, PhD astrophysics & space techniques (CNRS, Lockheed, SacPeak, Boulder, Harvard), Prof agrégé Physics, Ecole Normale Supérieure ENSET Paris-Saclay".

Frank J. Malina Astronautics Medal

4.7 IAF Interactive Presentations Competition Award

To be announced on Thursday 2 October during the IP Award Ceremony at **13:00 in the Cockle Bay room**. This event will kick-off the fourth IP Session of the week and the IP cocktail reception, so do not miss your chance to mingle with the presenters and make sure to join us in the IP Hall!

Date: Thursday 2 October 2025
Time: 13:00 – 13:30
Location: Cockle Bay Room, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney

5 IAF International Astronauts Chapter

The 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025) in Sydney, Australia, will proudly feature the **IAF International Astronauts Chapter**, jointly organized by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the Australian Space Agency, an esteemed IAF Member since 2011 and Co-Host of IAC 2025; and proudly funded by the IAF and the IAC 2025 Local Organising Committee (the Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA), the NSW Government, and the Australian Space Agency).

This unique programme offers an exceptional opportunity for to bring space heroes face-to-face with the public, offering firsthand insights as they share their experiences, expertise, and passion for space exploration.

Featuring astronauts from both government and the private sector, the IAF Chapter brings space closer to people and creates a vibrant platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, education, and inspiration for future generations.

Through engaging panels and special outreach initiatives, the IAF Chapter bridges the gap between astronauts and aspiring space explorers – igniting curiosity and encouraging the next generation to join the journey.
Do not miss the highlight of the Public Day:

Date: Friday, 3 October

Time: 10:15 – 11:15

Venue: Pyrmont Theatre, Level 2, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney

In this dynamic session, astronauts from around the world will share personal stories and will reflect on the importance of international collaboration, and the profound responsibility of exploration in advancing sustainability on Earth.

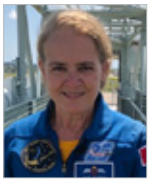
An **autograph session will follow** a rare chance to meet astronauts in person and celebrate the legacy of human spaceflight.

Venue: Pyrmont Theatre Foyer, International Convention Centre (ICC) Sydney

Step into the World of Space Exploration: Meet the International Astronauts at IAC 2025:

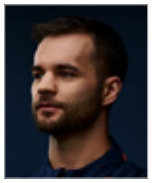
Katherine BENNELL-PEGG
Astronaut,
Australian Space Agency (ASA),
Australia

Eric PHILIPS
Astronaut,
Space X's Fram 2 Mission,
Australia



Julie PAYETTE
Astronaut,
Canadian Space Agency (CSA),
Canada

Andreas MOGENSEN
Astronaut,
European Space Agency (ESA),
Denmark



Tibor KAPU
Astronaut,
Hungarian to Orbit Program (HUNOR),
Hungary

Gyula CSERÉNYI
Astronaut,
Hungarian to Orbit Program (HUNOR),
Hungary

Shubhanshu SHUKLA
Astronaut,
Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO),
India

Prasanth Balakrishnan NAIR
Astronaut,
Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO),
India

Eytan STIBBE
AX-1 Astronaut,
Rakia Mission,
Israel

Soichi NOGUCHI
Astronaut,
CTO NEC/IISE,
Japan

Koichi WAKATA
Astronaut,
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA),
Japan

Soyeon Yi
Astronaut,
Korean Astronaut Program (KAP),
Republic of South Korea

Alper GEZERAVCI
First Turkish Astronaut,
Turkish Space Agency (TUA),
Türkiye

Tuva Cihangir ATASEVER
Astronaut,
Turkish Space Agency (TUA),
Türkiye

Hazzaa ALMANSOORI
Astronaut,
Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC),
United Arab Emirates

Nora ALMATROOSHI
Astronaut,
Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC),
United Arab Emirates

Sultan AL NEYADI
Astronaut,
Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC),
United Arab Emirates

Joseph M. ACABA
Chief Astronaut,
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA),
United States

Tony ANTONELLI
Astronaut,
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA),
United States

Sirisha BANDLA
Astronaut,
UNITY 22 Mission,
Unites States / India

Andrew FEUSTEL
Lead Astronaut,
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Michael LÓPEZ-ALEGRÍA
Astronaut,
Chief of the Astronaut Office
AXIOM Space,
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Thomas MARSHBURN
Chief Astronaut,
Sierra Space,
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Mark POLANSKY
Astronaut,
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA),
Unites States

6 Public Day

PUBLIC DAY AGENDA
Friday 3 October 2025

During the entire IAC General Public Day the attendees will have the possibility to visit the "Exhibition hall".

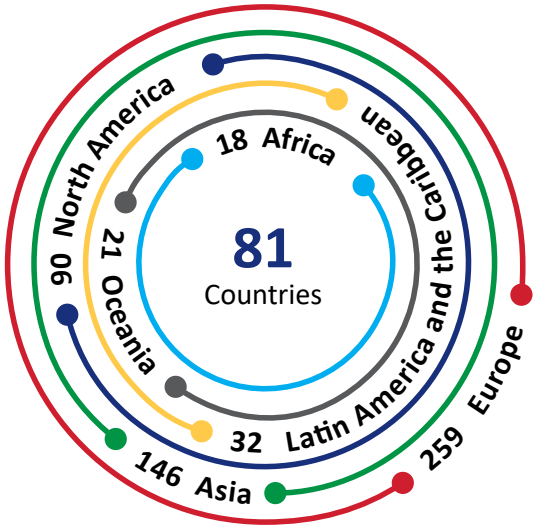
MORNING:			
09:00 – 09:45	**Astronauts Autograph sessions** ICC Sydney, Level 2, Pyrmont Theatre Foyer Do not miss the chance to meet astronauts in person and collect their autographs! Pick up a specially designed booklets and postcards with astronauts' photos at the IAF Booth. Please note that booklets are available in limited quantities—make sure to get yours early.		
10:15 – 11:15	**The Astronaut panel at the IAF Global Networking Forum (GNF): *"25 Years of Continued Astronaut Presence on ISS: A True Human Outpost in Space"*** ICC Sydney, Level 2, Pyrmont Theatre In this dynamic session under the theme *25 Years of Continued Astronaut Presence on ISS: A True Human Outpost in Space*, astronauts from around the world will share personal stories, reflect on the importance of international collaboration, and discuss the profound responsibility of exploration in advancing sustainability on Earth.	**SPEAKERS** **Koichi Wakata** **Soyeon Yi** **Sergey Krikalev** **Andrew Feustel** **Mark Polansky**	**MODERATOR** **Julie Payette**
11:15 – 11:40	**Astronauts Autograph sessions** ICC Sydney, Level 2, Pyrmont Theatre Foyer		
11:40 – 12:25	**NSW Department of Education Science Activities** ICC Sydney, Level 2, Pyrmont Theatre • A 20-minute panel Q&A session on the main stage • YSE Hall Tour: meeting families, school students, university teams, and teachers running hands-on activities. • Meet the finalists from the Australian Virtual Astronaut (AVA) Challenge (national competition where primary and high school students design and operate virtual space missions in realistic, problem-solving scenarios.		
12:30 – 13:00	**Astronauts Autograph sessions** ICC Sydney, Level 2, Pyrmont Theatre Foyer		

AFTERNOON	
14:30 – 15:30	**NSW Department of Education Science Activities** ICC Sydney, Level 2, Pyrmont Theatre • Meeting with the Australian Space Curriculum Collaborative (ASCC) delegates. The ASCC program brings 40 teachers and pre-service teachers from across Australia who are deeply engaged in integrating space into classroom practice.
15:30 – 16:15	**NSW Department of Education Science Activities** ICC Sydney, Level 2, Pyrmont Theatre • Unveiling of the Mission Patch Competition winners. This nationwide initiative has engaged schools across Australia in designing mission patches that symbolise space exploration and teamwork. Finalist students will be awarded certificates live on stage. • Meet with university students from the NSW Space Research Network (SRN) and the Sydney Interplanetary Rover Initiative (SIRI). These students are actively designing and building satellites, rockets, and rovers as part of space-related clubs and degree programs.
16:30 – 17:30	IAC 2025 Closing Ceremony

Notes

Notes

Join the IAF, the World's Leading and Most Diverse Space Advocacy Body



Become an IAF Member

- ✔ Apply on https://www.iaf-membership.org/
- ✔ Participate in the IAF Committees in charge of defining the Technical Programme
- ✔ Propose to host a Plenary Event during the IAC
- ✔ Propose a Global Networking Forum (GNF) Event to showcase your organization's latest achievements or to discuss the most interesting topics about Space
- ✔ Participate and vote in the General Assembly and nominate IAF Officers
- ✔ Host one of our events!

Contact: membership@iafastro.org

Join Us

1

Connect to the IAF Membership Platform through the IAF Website

2

Complete the Application Form and attach the **requested documents.**

3

Remember to inlcude the Logo of your organization and a short description.

4

We will review your application and ask in case of missing information.

5

Once reviewed, your application will be recommended by the **IAF General Counsel**.

6

Final approval by the General Assembly during the IAC.

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