

IAC 2027 Plenary Programme

Selection Process and Criteria

1. Definitions

The IAC Plenary Programme is divided into three categories (PP = PE + HLL + LBN):

- Plenary Events (PE): Plenary events to be held as session of general scientific or technological interest. Plenaries must be strongly engaging for the overall Congress attendees.
- Highlight Lectures (HLL): Lectures on selected scientific or technology topics generally given by speakers excelling in the lecture field. These are different from Plenaries as they have more scientific or technical depth but are still of strong interest to the full Congress attendees.
- Late Breaking News (LBN): A presentation on an important topic of scientific or technological relevance that has occurred after the abstract selection and final programme definition (between July and September each year) and of strong interest to the full IAC attendance.

2.Number of Plenary Programme slots per IAC

Over the five days of the Congress, there are normally 12 slots available for the Plenary Programme. These slots are normally divided into 7 Plenary Events, 3 Highlight Lectures, and 1 or 2 Late Breaking News events. The seven Plenary Events are one hour long, except the Heads of Agencies Plenary, which is 90 minutes long. The three Highlight Lectures are one-hour long. The two LBN events are 30 minutes long and are conducted back-to-back. If only one LBN is selected, the length of it can be of 60 minutes.

It is understood that, until further notice, one Plenary Event will be reserved for the "Heads of Agency" forum and another one will be selected at the discretion of the Local Congress Committee (Host Plenary).

The IPC Steering Group will then select **5 Plenary Events, 3 Highlight Lectures, and 1 or 2 Late Breaking News** presentations.

The number of slots for the Plenary Programme, as well as the division of events may be altered by the IPC Co-Chairs, upon recommendation of the Steering Group.

3. Plenary Programme Selection Schedule

Every year a call for PE's and HLL's is released by the IAF-IPC with the support of the IAF-IPC/SG via the IAF Secretariat. The call generally opens in mid-November and closes in late January.
IPC Steering Group members review the various proposals, rank the most attractive ones (using the evaluation criteria below) and classify the ranked ones as PE or HLL.

Each Steering Group member will rank the PE proposals within the category for which they have been submitted, with a rank of one being the highest.

Each Steering Group member will provide a rationale for their ranking of their top choices in each category, following the items listed in the Evaluation Criteria.

Each Steering Group member will also rank all HLL proposals, with a rank of one being the highest. Given 3 HLL slots available, each Steering Group member will provide a rationale for their ranking of their 3 top choices, following the items listed in the Evaluation Criteria.

Merging between proposals may also be proposed by Steering Group members if they believe complementary topics have been proposed.

The IPC Co-Chairs then select the PE's and HLL's based on the ranking and recommendations of the Steering Group and further taking into account discipline and geopolitical distribution.

The final selection set is then submitted to the IAF Bureau by late February for endorsement at the latest by the IAF Spring Meetings in March, and for release to the IAF community.

The LBN call starts in July and closes in September. The IPC Steering Group ranks the LBN proposals and makes their recommendation to the IPC Co-Chairs for final approval.

4. Plenary Programme Evaluation criteria

The Steering Group members will consider the following criteria in their ranking of the proposals:

1. The original content of the proposal, as compared to recent IAC Plenary Events
2. The timeliness of the topic with respect to current developments in the space sector
3. The interest of the topic to a large segment of the Congress attendees
4. The relationship of the proposal to the theme of the congress
5. The quality and expertise of the proposed speakers
6. The ability of the proposers and organizers to obtain the proposed presenters and execute a quality event.
7. The ability of the proposer of ensuring 3G+ Diversity amongst the proposed speakers

The final selection will be done ensuring a balance of disciplines, topics and 3G+ values among the events.

5.Plenary Programme Proposal Submittal

Proposals must be submitted to the IAF Secretariat based on the schedule provided by them. All proposals must provide the information requested in the proposal form. Proposals can be submitted by IAF Members Organizations only.

6. Plenary Programme Formats

Several formats are possible and need to be described in the submittal form:

- Plenary Event
  Selected panelists coordinated by a moderator (possibly one of the organizers).

- Highlight Lecture
  One or two key presenters addressing the subject of the HLL.

- Late Breaking News
  One or two key presenters addressing the subject of the LBN.

All these events shall provide some time to interact with the audience.

A detailed description of the way of conduct of the session is necessary to facilitate proper evaluation.