IAC 2027

Call for Special Session Proposals

TECHNICAL PROGRAMME TP

SpS

Think interactive. Think fresh. Think multidisciplinary.

The International Programme Committee of IAC 2027 solicits proposals for Special Sessions (SpS) within the technical scope of the congress.

IAC 2027 Special Sessions will supplement the regular Technical Programme of the congress and provide a sample of the state-of-the-art research or development in both academia and industry in special, novel, challenging and emerging topics in the field of space. Special Sessions that emphasize on multidisciplinary and transversal aspects, as well as cutting-edge topics are especially encouraged and welcome.

How to Apply

- Prospective organizers of special sessions should submit proposals using the online IAF submission system, accessible through the website https://iafastro.directory/iac/account/ login/
- Before submitting your proposal, please take a look to the IAC 2027 technical programme to try to prevent content overlap: https://iafastro.directory/iac/browse/IAC-27/catalog-technical-programme
- Proposals must be submitted into one of the Congress Symposium topics.
- Notification of acceptance will be sent to the organizers on 09 April 2027.
- Organizers are allowed to edit their proposals.

Selection Process

Special Sessions proposals will be evaluated by the IPC Steering Group for acceptance based on the following criteria:

- Innovative Format
- Multidisciplinary topic
- Novelty and originality of the topic
- Focus on audience engagement
- Quality of contents
- Qualification and experience of the organizers
- Relevance to the IAC Congress Theme

CONTACT

Should you have any questions about Special Sessions, you can contact us at sps@iafastro.org.

Additional Information

Special Sessions are planned for 70 minutes each. They shall take place during all the congress week. We encourage more **interactive**, **innovative** and **exchange-oriented** meeting formats.

There are four possible formats for Special Sessions:



Workshops

They differ from technical sessions that they are targeted to small audiences with a focus on audience participation (e.g. question and answer sessions and group work). Workshops offer a platform for presenting novel ideas in a more interactive way than the other tracks.



Campfire Sessions

These begin a lot like a traditional presentation, with a speaker (or multiple speakers) at the front of the room presenting an idea to a group of people. After 15 or 20 minutes, however, the focus shifts from the presenter to the audience. For the remainder of the session, the presenter becomes a facilitator, inviting comments, insights, and questions from those around the room. Campfire sessions allow attendees to drive their own learning and share experiences with others, which also assists with networking.



Fishbowls

They help facilitate discussion in large groups by having just 3-6 people talk at any one time. Those individuals are seated in the centre of the room while the rest of the participants (maximum of 50 people) sit around the outside and observe without interrupting. You can have "closed" or "open" fishbowls, meaning that the discussion is either exclusive to the selected participants or one or more of the chairs is open to members of the audience who want to ask questions or make comments. Although largely self-organised, once the discussion gets underway, the fishbowl process usually has a facilitator or moderator.



Open Option

We also welcome the submission of other formats as long as the session proposes an interactive format focusing on audience participation and engagement. **Panels will not be considered.**

- The person who submits the proposal is called the **Session Leader** and will be the main interface with the IAF Secretariat.
- The **SpS Organizer(s)'** role is to invite the speakers, provide the session inputs for the Final Programme and lead the session.
- The **SpS Facilitator's** (if any) role is to help the audience and the panelists understand their common objectives and assists them to plan to achieve those goals without taking a particular position in the discussion.
- There is no financial subsistence provided for session organizers and invitees. SpS Organizers are required to register and pay the applicable admission fee to attend the IAC.

As per the registration policy please note that delegates with press or exhibitor badges are not entitled to present or submit a Special Session.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Call for Special Sessions: **09 November 2026 - 12 February 2027**
- Deadline for SpS Submission: **12 February 2027**
- SpS selection: **23-25 March 2027**
- Proposal acceptance notification: **09 April 2027**
- Congress dates: **27 September - 1 October 2027**