November 2026

Call for Hosting the 81st International Astronautical Congress in 2030

Each year the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) organizes the International Astronautical Congress (IAC). The IAC is held every year in different countries of the world with an IAF member organization serving as its Host. The IAC has established itself as the world's premier global space event and is considered as a national flagship event of the Host country. In recent years, the event attracted between 6,000 and 12,000 participants including more than 40% students and young professionals. The IAF is seeking proposals from IAF member organizations interested in serving as the Host of the 81st IAC which will be held in 2030.

A. HOST ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS

The bidding organization must demonstrate in its bid that it is:

1. An IAF member organization **in good standing**.
2. **Legally capable** of signing a contract with the IAF for hosting and executing an IAC.
3. **Organizationally and financially able** to undertake and successfully implement an IAC in all aspects including planning, operations, logistics and follow-up.
4. Capable of **fulfilling all the requirements** placed on the host organization as described in the Call.
5. **Strongly supported** by the Host country government and the national space ecosystem.
6. **Committed to actively promoting accessibility and inclusivity**. As Members of the IAF and in reference to the Federation's 3G+ Diversity values (Gender, Generation, Geography, and other dimensions of diversity), the bidders shall also demonstrate a clear commitment to undertake, encourage and support the most diverse and inclusive participation possible from the space community. Particular attention shall be given to international accessibility and proactive visa facilitation with relevant authorities ensuring that all *bona fide* participants, regardless of nationality, have access to transparent, timely and non-discriminatory visa procedures, and entry arrangements to the host country for the duration of the Congress.

The bidding organization must include in its bid:

1. Documentation to validate its legal existence and structure as well as its address, telephone, and e-mail address for follow up communications, and a description of the proposed organizational arrangement.
2. Written commitment specifying the organizational and/or financial support proposed to be provided.
3. Publicly verifiable information describing the capabilities as well as the financial and organizational resources of the proposing host organization.

B. LETTER OF INTENT

The letter of intent kicks off the IAC Bidding Process and it is a mandatory requirement to qualify to submit a bid. It shall indicate:

- The name of the IAF Member Organization intending to bid
- Confirmation that the IAF Member Organization is an IAF Members in good standing
- The year of the IAC for which the IAF Member organization is bidding for
- The planned Host City
- A formal statement of the IAF Member Organization's intention to submit a proposal
- A formal statement from the IAF Member Organization confirming its assumption of full legal and financial responsibility for all activities, processes, and obligations arising from and associated with serving as the potential IAC Host
- Name and contact information of the IAF Member Organization Representative
- Description of the IAF Member Organization's motivation to host the world's premier global space event
- Sign-off and signature

C. HOST RESPONSIBILITIES AND BID COMMITMENTS

The bidding organization shall demonstrate their capability and commitment to prepare and deliver the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in close cooperation with the IAF. The bid shall include supporting documentation, technical specifications, financial information, implementation plans, commitments, and relevant references demonstrating full compliance with all hosting obligations.

1. Governance, Organization and Management

- Preparation and execution in cooperation with the IAF of the **81st International Astronautical Congress** (IAC), including defined pre- and post-congress associated events.
- Responsibility for all tasks associated with ensuring the smooth organization and delivery of the IAC.
- Provision of the anticipated Local Organizing Committee (LOC) structure, including the names of committee members, organizational and financial support, and experience in organizing large-scale events.
- Nomination of an International Programme Committee (IPC) Co-Chair, including the proposed candidate's name and qualifications. The IPC Co-Chair shall lead the IPC Steering Group Committee for two years.
- Selection and funding of a Professional Congress Organizer (PCO), including information on the experience in organizing large-scale events – to be approved by the IAF.
- to be approved by the IAF.
- Significance of the chosen year for the bidder (timeliness of the bid).
- Proposal of a motto of the IAC.
- Provision of information on proximity of cultural, historical and space programme sites of potential interest to the IAC attendees.
- Clarification of space activities and interests of the host country and city including any special events or activities which the host organization plans to pursue in connection with the IAC.
- Acknowledgement of English as the official language of the Congress.

2. Financial Commitments and Insurance

- Submission of an anticipated budget demonstrating the financial viability of the Congress. The budget shall be developed and presented in Euros.
- Collection of registration fees in Euros at rates approved by the IAF.
- Payment to the IAF of:
  - not less than 50% of all registration fees collected, without deduction of applicable taxes and fees;
  - not less than 35% of all net sponsorship income (including Anchor sponsor, if applicable).
- Payment of all applicable local and national taxes and fees, including those relating to registration fees, without passing such costs to delegates or deducting them from amounts due to the IAF.
- All payments that are due to the IAF will be made in Euros by the agreed payment deadlines.
- Guarantee of a minimum financial return to the IAF of 700,000 Euros through a letter of guarantee from a government institution. The host may also decide to subscribe insurance to this effect.
- Provision of liability insurance for the protection of the IAF and all delegates through an internationally recognized insurance provider, subject to IAF approval.

3. Delegate Services and International Participation

- Demonstration of plans to facilitate visa issuance and ensure unimpeded entry and exit of delegates, as well as the IAF Executive Director and the IAF Secretariat team for the site inspection and site visit.
- Demonstration of full support from the Host Country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including:
  - a dedicated IAC visa assistance office;
  - designated embassy and consular contacts;
  - escalation procedures for delayed visa applications;
  - clear visa refusal and appeal procedures;
  - dedicated assistance for participants requiring additional support.
- Provision of online hotel booking services for delegates.
- Provision of information about accessibility of host country and city for international travellers including the number and frequency of non-stop international flights from major locations, local transportation (including metro, taxi and buses fares) and regional transportation services, language capabilities of host city residents to communicate in the Federation’s official language (English).

4. Congress Venue, Facilities and Operations

- Provision of Congress facilities with modern capabilities to host the Congress and all associated activities.
- Provision of all required meeting rooms, facilities, equipment, support staff, and services in accordance with the Call for Hosting and the Generic Contract.
- Rental and operation of the Congress venue, including but not limited to:
  - rent and cleaning;
  - technical equipment and staff;
  - branding, signage, and decoration;
  - room reconfigurations;
  - high-speed Wi-Fi;
  - exhibition space;
  - registration areas;
  - social event facilities.
- Provision of all necessary technical personnel required for the proper operation and execution of the Congress. All such technical personnel provided by the Host must be fully fluent and proficient in spoken English to ensure seamless communication and execution of their duties.
- Registration of delegates in accordance with IAF requirements and the provisions of the Generic Contract.

- Provision of simultaneous or consecutive interpretation services for all attendees and live-captioning to and from Host country languages in case invited Host Officials would not speak in English during the Opening Ceremony and other events.
- Provision of medical services, security personnel, and related safety measures.
- Implementation of special arrangements for participants with disabilities.

5. Exhibition and Sponsorship

- Organization and operation, in cooperation with the IAF, of a five-day exhibition co-located with the Congress.
- Coordination of exhibition activities and acquisition of local and international exhibitors.
- Cooperation with the IAF in securing local and international sponsorships.

6. Programme, Events and Outreach

- Organization, together with the IAF, of the Opening and Closing.
- Organization of the Public Day and outreach activities.
- Organization of the IAF International Astronauts Chapter - the Host shall provide at a minimum local transport and 5-star accommodation to at least 25 astronauts and shall also organize an outreach programme in partnership with the IAF.
- Preparation and execution, together with the IAF, of the IAC associated pre- and post-Congress events.
- Preparation and management of technical visits.
- Support, as requested by the IAF, for meetings and events associated with the IAC, which are generally held just before or during the IAC and financially supported in part or fully by the Host, including but not limited to:
    - UN/IAF Workshop;
    - IAF International Meeting for Ministers and Members of Parliament (MMoP);
    - IAF Global Space Leaders Summit (GSLS);
    - IAC Hosts Summit;
    - IAF Public Speaking & Presentation Skills Lab (PS Lab);
    - IAF International Astronauts Chapter activities;
    - IPMC Young Professionals Workshop;
    - Educators Professional Development programme;
    - Student workshops.
- Support to IAA
    - Support, in coordination with the IAF, the organization of the IAA Day and IAA Dinner;
- Support to IISL
    - Plans for hosting the IISL Moot Court Competition Finals and covering the associated costs (including costs for the IISL programmes and transport and accommodation of the Judges of the International Court of Justice) up to a maximum of 25,000 Euros.
    - Plans for supporting the organization of the IISL Dinner.
- Support to SGAC
    - Plans for hosting the Space Generation Congress in the close vicinity of the IAC venue (200 participants) or ideally at the IAC venue.

7. Catering and Hospitality

- Plans for the Gala Dinner – including details on the potential venue (at least 500 participants) its location vis-à-vis the proposed Congress hotels / venue.
- Organization and support of social events normally associated with the IAC, including:
    - Welcome Reception open to all registered delegates and accompanying persons at no additional charge;
    - Social functions from Monday through Thursday, such as dinners, cultural evenings, and entertainment programmes;

- Accompanying persons' programme.
- Provision of catering services and typical menus and prices.
- Covering the costs of defined catering services, including:
  - Coffee breaks;
  - VIP gathering and morning coffee;
  - VIP and Speaker luncheons and breakfasts;
  - IAF Global Space Leaders Reception/Dinner and Lunch;
  - Welcome Reception;
  - Gala Dinner.

8. Branding, Communications and Publications

- Development of Congress branding, to be approved by the IAF, including:
  - design of the IAC logo and marketing materials
  - design and production of the Congress bag.
- Support to the IAF in the production and covering the cost for the printing, dissemination, and distribution of promotional and Congress materials, including:
  - Call for Papers;
  - IAC promotional brochure;
  - Final Programmes;
  - Pocket Programme;
  - IAF International Astronauts Chapter booklet and Astronaut Postcards;
  - other related publications.
- Establishment and maintenance of the Congress website in accordance with IAF guidelines and with regularly updated information provided throughout the preparation phase – Domain to be provided by IAF.
- Branding of the Congress venue in accordance with the Call for Hosting and the Generic Contract - **prominent and extensive branding** inside and outside the Congress venue promoting the Host, the IAF as organizer, partners and sponsors. Type and locations of brandings shall be agreed with IAF.

9. Venue Requirements

The bid shall clearly demonstrate that the proposed Congress facilities and services fully comply with the minimum requirements presented hereunder and in the Generic Contract.

The venue must be capable of hosting **6,000+ delegates** and include:

FUNCTION	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
Opening Ceremony & Public Day	• 1 theatre-style room with capacity for 4,500 pax (Monday morning and additional day TBC)
Closing Ceremony	• 1 theatre-style room with capacity for 1,500 pax (Friday)
Plenary Programme	• 1 theatre-style room for 2,500 pax on Monday • 1 theatre-style room for 1,000 pax Tuesday to Friday for Plenary Events (PEs), Highlight Lectures (HLLs) and Late Breaking News (LBNs) • 1 theatre-style room for 300 pax for the Global Networking Forum (GNF)
Technical & Special Sessions	• Minimum 25 concurrent meeting rooms ranging from 60 to 250 pax

	○ 1 room for 250 pax. ○ 2 rooms for 200 pax. (one for the Special Sessions allowing for multiple settings during the week and flexibility for reconfiguration) ○ 3 rooms for 120 pax. ○ 5 rooms for 100 pax. ○ 10 rooms for 80 pax. ○ 4 rooms for 60 pax.
Interactive Presentations	• Dedicated fully carpeted area with at least 70 digital presentation stations with 55" screens and laptops and with acoustic walls to avoid noise interference • IP Software and associated costs (provided by IAF and paid by the Host)
Exhibition	• Minimum 10,000 sqm exhibition space
B2B Networking	• Dedicated separated area for approximately 150 pax in business meetings
Committee Meetings	• 10 U-shape meeting rooms ○ 6 up to 50 pax ○ 4 up to 30 pax
Members Meetings	• 12 U-shape meeting rooms (18 pax)
Offices	• Dedicated offices for IAF, IAA, IISL and organizing teams ○ 8 rooms ○ 1 big secretariat (100 sqm minimum)
Associated Events	• UN/IAF Workshop: 1 room for 150 pax (Saturday and Sunday prior to the Congress) and 2 rooms for 80 pax (Saturday and Sunday prior to the Congress) • IAF General Assembly: 1 room for 500 pax in classroom style (Monday and Friday) • IPC General/TAC Meeting: 1 room for 150 pax (Saturday) • IAA Day: 1 room for 300 pax (Sunday) • IAF International Meeting for Ministers and Members of Parliaments (IAF MMoP): 1 room for 200 pax classroom style (Sunday) - in the local parliament or other prestigious official venue • IAC Hosts Summit: 1 room for 250 pax (Sunday) • IAF Public Speaking and Presentation Skills Lab (IAF PS Lab): 1 room for 150 pax (Sunday) • IAF Global Space Leaders Summit (GSLS): 1 room for 180 pax and at least 1200 sqm (Tuesday) • Young Professional Programmes Session Rooms: 1 room for 400 pax theatre style and 1 cocktail reception area for 400 pax. (Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings)

Media Facilities	• 1 Press Centre • 1 Press Conference Room • 1 Interview Area • IAF Congress TV Room and Area
Speaker Support	• Speaker Preparation Room
Delegate Services	• Registration area (minimum 6 counters, including a dedicated counter for VIPs, 1 Accredited Press registration counter, 2 congress bags collection counters) • Delegates' and Accompanying Persons lounges • Members' lounge (including a small meeting room) • Networking spaces • Option to rent additional smaller bilateral meeting rooms and offices in the vicinity of or inside the Congress venue
Catering Facilities	• Adequate luncheon and hospitality facilities • Dedicated VIP and speakers luncheon area for up to 300 pax
Additional Services	• Free of charge and high-speed WI-FI internet service in the entire venue, fully operational as of Friday prior to IAC • Live Captioning Software (provided by IAF, to be paid by the Host) • Prominent and extensive branding inside and outside the Congress venue • At the congress site, or in very close proximity, the following services must be available: banking facilities, travel agency, medical services, childcare services.

The bid shall also discuss additional features of the Congress venue that might make it attractive for the 81st IAC (e.g. additional meeting rooms, flexible facility arrangements, scenic location, security provisions, convenient access to public transportation, additional incentives, etc.).

10. Hotels Requirements

The Host shall make appropriate arrangements to ensure that suitable and sufficient hotel accommodations are available for attendees to the Congress. The IAF's goal is to offer Congress participants high-quality lodging at prices that are significantly lower than would otherwise be available to visitors to the Congress site including those who may book directly from the hotels.

The bid shall include:

- Hotel accommodations of varying types and prices (including information on the distance from the Congress area) for attendees.
- Low-Cost Accommodations: Host to provide a list of budget hotels, university campus accommodation, mainly, but not only, for students and young professionals.

- Whether discounts on hotel rates will be offered and, if so, what percentage of discount is guaranteed in each category.
- The proximity – both in distance and in time (by walk – by public transportation – by dedicated shuttle service) – of hotel accommodations to the Congress venue. If the hotels proposed for the Congress are not within a 10-minute walk from the Congress site the proposing organization shall elaborate on how it intends to provide frequent, convenient access to and from the Congress venue for IAC participants.
- An efficient and reliable hotel-booking system.

The Host shall also provide at no charge accommodation for the IAF Secretariat staff, the IAF President, the IAA President, IISL President and UNOOSA Director, as outlined in the Generic Contract.

D. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

The IAF has established a Congress Selection Advisory Committee (IAF CSAC) that will review the proposals submitted by potential IAC host organizations. This Committee is composed of experienced individuals who represent the various organizational and geographical interests of the Federation.

Based on the mandate from the IAF General Assembly (IAF GA), the IAF Executive Director with the support of the IAF Senior Advisor will undertake a site inspection visit to the proposed host city to inspect the congress venue, hotel accommodation facilities and technical tours and social events sites, meet with the Local Organizing Committee and local industry, academia and local administration and government institutions and representatives with the aim to review the proposal and assess the feasibility of hosting the 81st International Astronautical Congress. A report on the site inspection visit will be presented to the CSAC, the IAF Bureau and the IAF General Assembly (GA).

Considering the results of the CSAC preliminary review, the Bureau may decide - not later than end of June 2027 – to select a shortlist of candidates who will be asked to make a presentation and answer questions concerning their proposals during the following IAC.
The candidates may be asked to submit additional information and documentation in connection with their bids. The updated bid must be submitted to the IAF no later than 10 September 2027.

During the 78th IAC in Poznań, Poland, the IAF Bureau and IAF General Assembly delegates will discover the bidders' presentations and ask questions about the candidates' bids. The CSAC will conduct dedicated interviews with the bidding organizations and then present its evaluation to the IAF Bureau and to the IAF General Assembly. On Friday, 1 October 2027, the CSAC and the IAF Bureau will present their recommendations to the IAF General Assembly for endorsement of the Host City for the 2030 International Astronautical Congress.

Evaluation criteria

The CSAC and the IAF Bureau will evaluate the extent to which each bid satisfies the above factors. The evaluation will also consider:

1. Full compliance with the Call for Hosting and the Generic Contract.
2. International accessibility, including procedure and practices of host country regarding granting of visas.
3. Ease of access to the host country, city, and venue.
4. Financial viability of the undertaking as proposed by the host organization.
5. Commitment to IAF's values of diversity and inclusiveness.

6. Experienced and well-structured Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and Professional Congress Organizer (PCO).
7. Strength of national support – government, industry and academia, and institutional partners.
8. Suitability of the proposed congress main venue to accommodate the many facets of an IAC.
9. Quantity, quality, price, and proximity to the main venue of hotels of various categories.
10. IAF practices about the sequence and frequency of holding IACs in various regions of the world.
11. Attractiveness of the Host city.
12. A track record of hosting large-scale international events.
13. Number of IAF member organizations in the host country and their level of IAF involvement.
14. Attractiveness of the technical tours, social and accompanying persons programmes.
15. Other incentives that may be proposed by the host organization/city/country.
16. Strategic value, competitiveness and expected legacy.
17. Support from IAF members.

E. CONTRACTS SIGNATURE, EXECUTION AND RETENTION OF HOSTING RIGHTS

A Generic Contract between the IAF and the Host has been developed over the years based on experience and past practice. This Generic Contract is the basis for the Contract to be signed between the IAF and the Host. The Generic Contract will be provided to those Member Organizations who will have submitted a letter of intent to bid. **The bid shall include that the bidding organization explicitly confirms its full and unconditional acceptance of the requirements of the Generic Contract.**

The organization selected to host the IAC will be asked to sign the IAC Contract with the IAF based on the Generic Contract that elaborates the respective commitments and responsibilities of the parties. No changes, amendments, additions, deletions, reservations or alternative wording shall be accepted. **The bidder acknowledges that acceptance of this condition constitutes a fundamental and non-negotiable requirement of the Call for Hosting.**

The IAC Contract shall be signed no later than 31 December 2027. The IAC Contract will be updated and signed again at the IAC 2029, to include the IAC 2030 Registration Fees approved by the IAF General Assembly at its second session at the IAC 2029. No other updates will be allowed.

The IAC Contract signed between IAF and the successful bidder shall be governed by the laws of France.

The IAC Contract shall remain in force up to **1 April 2031**, by which time all obligations under the contract are to be fulfilled. A final acknowledgment of the fulfillment of the contract shall be signed by 1st of April 2031, confirming that all obligations have been met by both parties. This acknowledgment shall serve as confirmation that all terms have been satisfied and that neither party holds any further claims against the other related to the agreement.

Failure to fulfill any financial obligations by the Host outlined in the contract shall result in the Host being classified as an IAF member **not in good standing**. This status will lead to the suspension of all membership benefits. Continued non-compliance may ultimately result in the termination of the Host's membership with the IAF.

The successful bidder must sign the IAC Contract within the above-mentioned deadline. If the successful bidder fails or refuses to sign the IAC Contract within the stipulated deadline, it will lose its right to host the IAC 2030. The IAF shall then exercise its prerogative as the IAC Organizer to seek an alternative host.

F. SCHEDULE

The schedule for the selection of the Host of the 81st IAC is as follows:

▪ Announcement of Call for Hosting	18 November 2026
▪ Deadline for submission of letters of intent	29 January 2027
▪ Deadline for submission of bids	23 April 2027
▪ Selection of finalist candidates (if applicable)	June 2027
▪ Site Inspections	July - August 2027
▪ Deadline for submission of updated bids	10 September 2027
▪ Finalist presentations: during the 78th IAC in Poznań, Poland	27 Sep-1 October 2027
▪ Selection of the Host by the IAF General Assembly	1 October 2027

Note: The IAF may – at its discretion – modify the above schedule and notify the concerned organizations of the schedule changes.

G. ANNEXES

1. IAC Bid Content Structure
2. IAC 2030 Rooms Table