



## THE WHOLE WORLD CELEBRATING SPACE EXPLORATION AT GLEX 2021

**15 June 2021 - St. Petersburg, Russia.** The Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX 2021) has officially opened its doors with a special award to the Russian Federation and to IAF member and host of the conference, State Space Corporation ROSCOSMOS. “We celebrate here in St. Petersburg, the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the flight of Yuri Gagarin, ushering in a new era in Space Exploration as the first human to journey into outer space” said IAF President, **Pascale EHRENFREUND**. In accepting the award, **Dmitry ROGOZIN**, ROSCOSMOS Director General, declared his intention to “**rely on international cooperation in order to improve space exploration efforts to answer the ultimate question: Are we alone in the universe?**”.

Likewise, all 16 astronauts from 8 countries reunited in the Duma Hall reminiscing their experiences in exploring space. “**In order to unite all space explorers and travelers**” said Andy TURNAGE, Executive Director of the Association of Space Explorers (ASE), the universal astronauts insignia (the first flown pin dedicated to Yuri Gagarin), was given to Russian cosmonaut Alexander Alexandrov.

The will to pursue international collaboration in the interest of advancing space exploration also emerged during the High-Level space leaders plenaries when NASA Administrator, **Bill NELSON** announced his wish “**to extend the collaboration on the International Space Station (ISS) until 2030**”. **Joseph ASCHBACHER**, ESA Director General, similarly disclosed his “**intention to continue to pursue space exploration endeavours with international partners**”. **Hiroshi YAMAKAWA**, JAXA President, revealed that “**JAXA is preparing for lunar exploration and the Martian Moons exploration mission to be launched in 2024**”. With the ambition to further improve space endeavours, **Rashad NABIYEV**, Minister of Transport, Communications and High Technology from the Republic of Azerbaijan, also called for “**more private companies to enter the space sector**”.

In the technical programme, we witnessed the interest in space exploration with more than 70 presentations on the topics of International Cooperation for Space Exploration, Ground-Based Preparatory Activities, Transcending Societal Issues for Space Exploration, Lunar Exploration, Key Technologies, and Challenges of Life Support/Medical Support for Human Missions.

More than **700 people** have assembled on-site at GLEX 2021 from **32 countries**, and more than **1.300 people from 113 countries** have watched online the livestreaming broadcast. Stay tuned tomorrow for plenty of discussions about the Moon.

**For more information**

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