



GLEX 2021 celebrating the 60th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's spaceflight with tributes by International Astronauts

The 12 April 1961, the senior lieutenant, pilot of the USSR Air Force, **Yuri Gagarin** was 27 years old. His spaceflight, the first ever in the history of humankind on the Vostok spacecraft lasted 108 minutes. He was unknown before the flight and after, he became the most famous man on Earth. His flight also set a number of traditions that all cosmonauts and astronauts flying from Baikonur cosmodrome follow thoroughly up until today. His spaceflight had an undeniable political impact, allowing the advancement of science, it marked the beginning of an era and, even indirectly, contributed to the development of technology and society's support.

In April 2021, the World celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Yuri Gagarin's spaceflight, the first human in space and the **International Astronautical Federation (IAF)** and the IAF Member **State Space Corporation ROSCOSMOS** are extremely pleased to hold the IAF Global Space Exploration Conference – **GLEX 2021** in his native country. General interest in astronauts is high since then and is a powerful tool for education, outreach and public engagement. Consequently, GLEX 2021 also offers an excellent opportunity for **space outreach** to capture the public's attention which, subsequently, could be redirected to the benefit of the wider space community.

At GLEX 2021 there will be a plenary on opening day, **Tuesday 15 June 2021**, during which more than 20 cosmonauts and astronauts from all over the world, many of them being also the first representative of their countries flying to space, will give their tribute to the first man in space and the beginning of humankind's spaceflight era.

For more information

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