



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

75th IAC – A historic gathering of space people reaching new heights!

Milan, Italy – The International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2024) in Milan was a monumental event! It marked the 75th time that we gather in one place, from all over the globe and unite around our shared passion for space. Hosted by the Italian Association of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIDAA), one of the founding members of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), and co-hosted by the Italian Space Agency (ASI) and Leonardo, the record breaking 75th IAC edition reached several historic heights, leaving an impressive legacy.

This year's motto, "**Responsible Space for Sustainability**", relied on embracing all stakeholders from the space community and beyond. We can proudly announce that IAC 2024 has been the largest IAC ever held in history! With more than 11 200 delegates from 120 countries it is an unprecedented new record, making it not only the largest IAC but also one of the most diverse gatherings of space people in our galaxy. Additionally, 3000 people joined the livestreaming online and on the public day we could welcome an additional 3500 participants of all ages.

The astonishing IAC 2024 Exhibition featured a record number of more than 530 exhibitors! It was filled with captivating displays, interactive booths, and groundbreaking technologies, including the magnificent display of the samples from the far side of the moon brought by China's Chang'e 6 mission as well as samples from the asteroid Bennu brought back by NASA's OSIRIS-REx Mission.

A major highlight of this year's IAC was the inaugural IAF Global Space Leaders Summit, which brought together 60 heads of space agencies and offices. This historic assembly, the largest gathering of leaders of well-established space nations and emerging countries ever, fostered high-level discussions on space cooperation, governance, and sustainability.

The IAC week was filled with inspiring presentations and latest developments of space programmes. A fascinating update was given by ESA on the Euclid mission, that is designed to explore the composition of dark matter and to provide us with a deeper understanding of our universe.

As part of the IAF International Astronauts Chapter, the congress also featured an impressive outreach programme with 25 international astronauts, who engaged with the public, students, and young professionals, inspiring the next generation of space enthusiasts and fostering global space education.



The IAF General Assembly selected the European Space Foundation (ESF) to host IAC 2027 in Poznań, Poland. The IAF also continues to grow as the global space community expands and had the pleasure of welcoming 73 new Member organizations bringing the overall membership to 563 from 80 countries.

The ISRO Chandrayaan-3 Team was the recipient of this year's prestigious IAF World Space Award. The successful mission reminds us about the power of Space Exploration to inspire and unite people all over the globe. As Michael Gold, one of the IAF Excellence in International Cooperation Award Winners, eloquently put it during the Opening Ceremony *"Let Space be the torch that brings us all together"*.

Space serves as a hope for all humankind and unites us to push boundaries of human achievement and pursue solutions that enhance sustainability and resilience on Earth. The importance of space in addressing global challenges is eminent and we are continuing this crucial discussion next year in Sydney, Australia at the 76th International Astronautical Congress, organized by IAF and hosted by Space Industry Association of Australia (SIAA).

International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

Founded in 1951, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) is the world's leading space advocacy body with more than 500 members in 77 countries, including all leading space agencies, industries, research institutions, universities, societies, associations, institutes and museums worldwide.

Following its motto "Connecting @ll Space People" and its vision of "A space-faring world cooperating for the benefit of humanity", the Federation advances knowledge about space, supporting the development and application of space assets by promoting global cooperation.

As organizer of the annual International Astronautical Congress (IAC) – world's premier global space event – and other thematic events, the IAF actively encourages the development of space activities for peaceful purposes and supports the dissemination of scientific and technical information related to space.