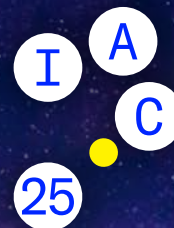


ORGANIZED BY



HOSTED BY



76TH
INTERNATIONAL
ASTRONAUTICAL
CONGRESS
SYDNEY

HIGHLIGHTS



29.SEP – 03.OCT.2025
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

CO-HOSTED BY



IAC2025.ORG

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

It is with great pride and gratitude that I reflect on the tremendous success of the 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025), held in the vibrant city of Sydney. This year's Congress brought together nearly 8,000 participants from 99 countries, once again demonstrating the unifying power of the IAC as the world's premier global space event.

This year's Congress was remarkable in both scope and spirit. Throughout the week, over 3,500 speakers inspired audiences across 40 plenaries and panels, 200 technical sessions, and a vibrant exhibition showcasing the best of global innovation. One of the most inspiring moments was the IAC 2025 Public Day, which welcomed more than 11,000 visitors, including 1,500 students.

I am deeply inspired by the unprecedented scale of international collaboration witnessed in Sydney, a powerful testament to our shared commitment to explore new frontiers of cooperation, proving once again that dialogue and partnership are the foundations of progress. As I begin my term as IAF President, I am honoured to continue fostering this collective energy. Together, we will strengthen our Federation's role as the home of the world's space community - an open, inclusive platform where ideas, cultures, and dreams converge to build a better future beyond our planet.

This theme of IAC 2025, *"Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth,"* captured the essence of our collective responsibility - to ensure that space remains a driver of sustainability, resilience, and opportunity for future generations on our home planet and beyond.

Let us carry forward the momentum and the message of Sydney: that through unity, diversity, and sustainability, space will continue to be a beacon of hope and resilience for all.



On behalf of the IAF, I extend my deepest gratitude to all participants whose dedication and vision made IAC 2025 an unforgettable success. Enjoy the IAC 2025 Highlights Booklet and see you in Antalya, Türkiye, for the IAC 2026!

Gabriella ARRIGO

President,
International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

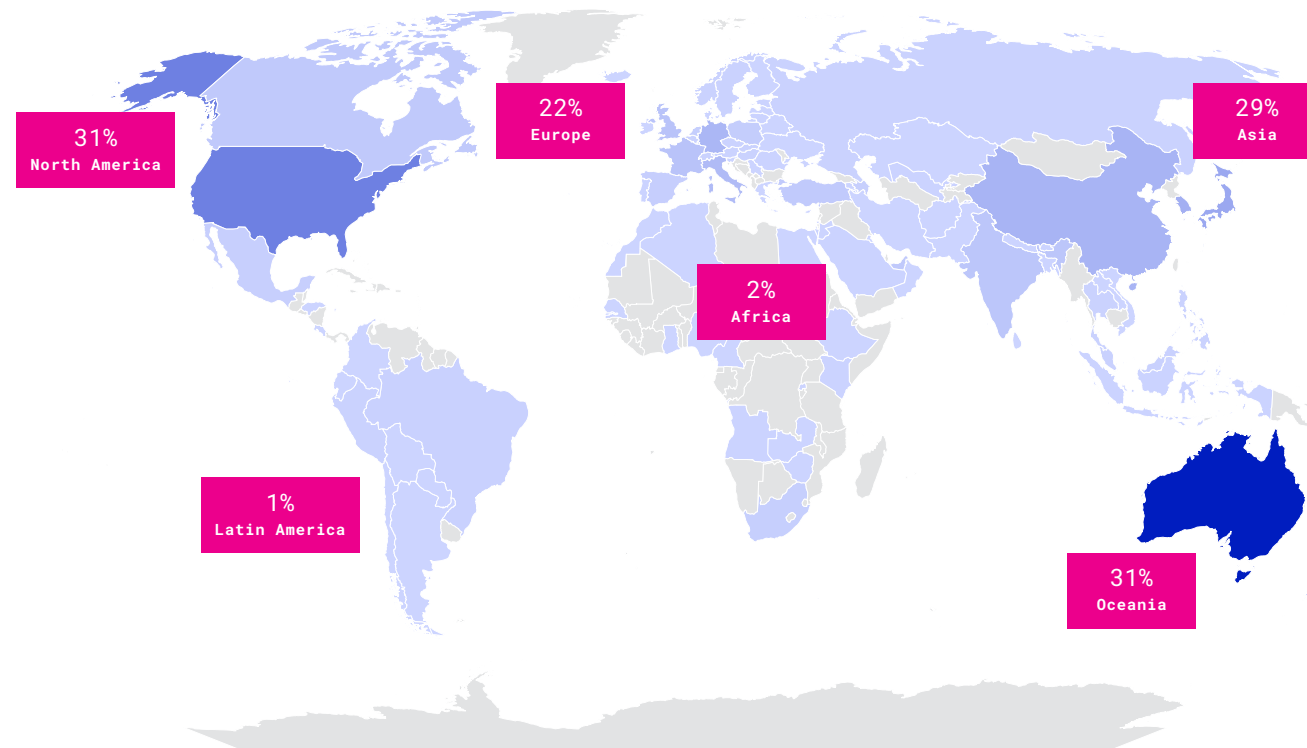


STATISTICS

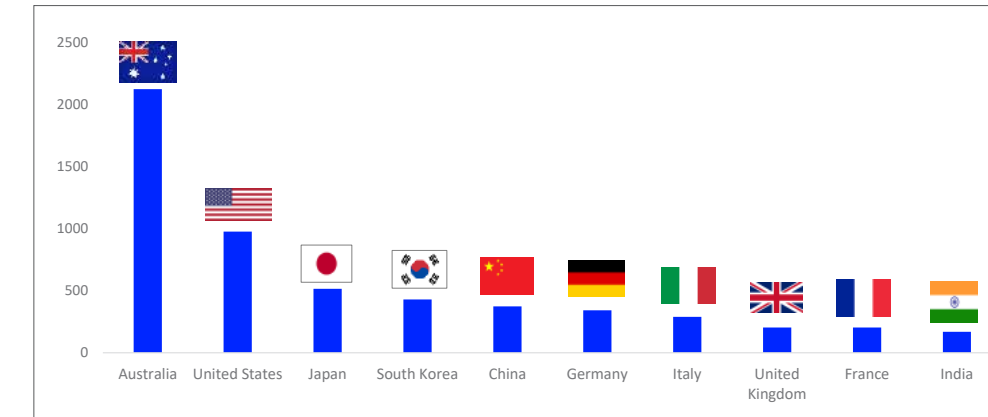
REGISTRATION

8000
DELEGATES

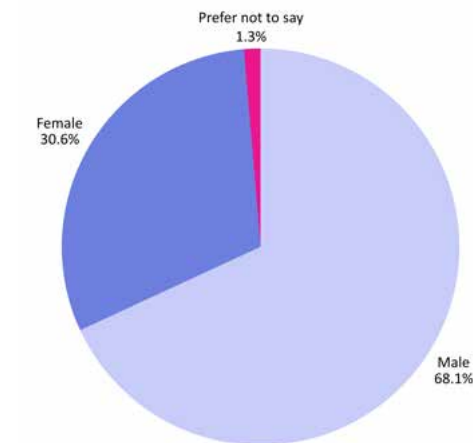
FROM 99
COUNTRIES



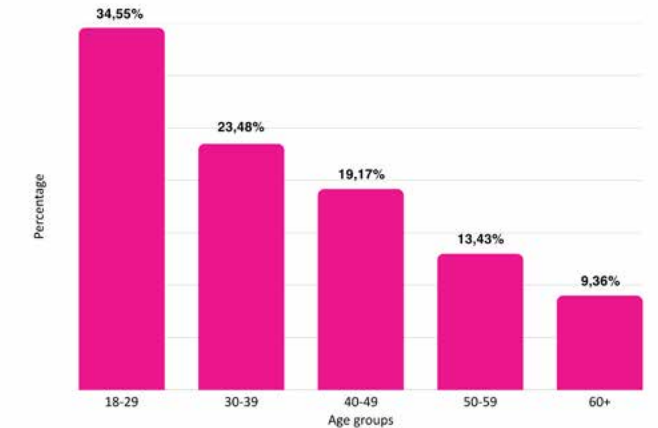
Participants from Top 10 Countries



The IAC 2025
Public Day set
new records,
drawing over
11,000
participants,
including 1,500
students



Gender Distribution (%)



Delegates Age Range
Distribution (%)

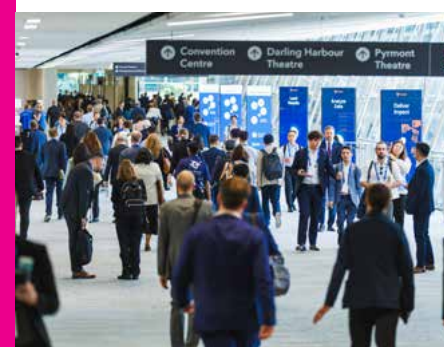
MONDAY

AGENCY DAY

MONDAY

THE ARRIVAL

The 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025) took place in the vibrant city of Sydney, bringing together 8,000 participants from 99 countries under the theme “Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth.”





As a stellar start of the Congress, the grand opening ceremony featured a powerful Welcome to Country and a series of performances by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, highlighting indigenous connection to Land, Sea and Sky, as the world's oldest astronomers.



"Today, we launch the 76th International Astronautical Congress, where the world's space community comes together to access the latest advancements and trends, to listen and to learn, to be curious, to connect and collaborate."

Her Excellency the Honourable
Sam MOSTYN AC
28th Governor-General of Australia:



MONDAY



THE EXHIBITION OPENING



VIP EXHIBITION TOUR



MONDAY







Six heads of space agencies convened in the first panel of IAC 2025 to address the theme “Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth,” fostering dialogue on global space challenges and strengthening collaboration for a sustainable future.



MONDAY

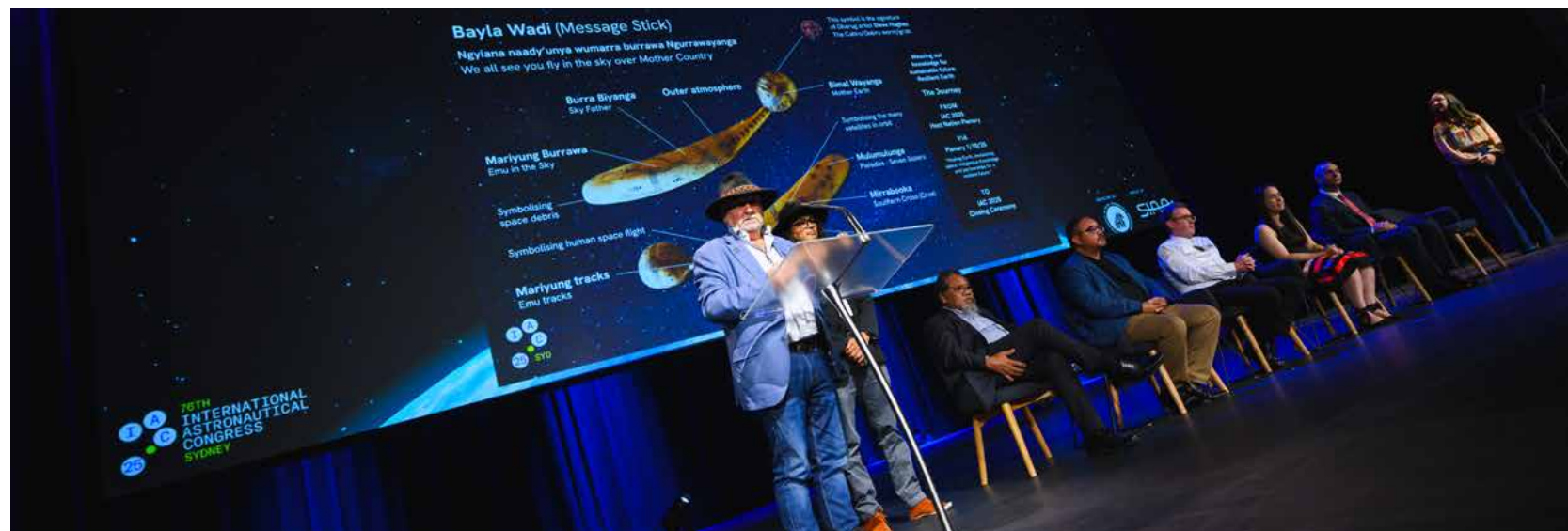


“The aspirational opportunity ahead of us is even greater. We’re at a critical moment. I really believe this, that space can play a key role in nation building.”

Lisa CAMPBELL
President, Canadian Space Agency (CSA)



The explored how co-discovery in the space sector through structured collaboration between Western science and Indigenous knowledge can unlock new insights into space and sustainability.



“The path to Sustainable Space: Resilient Earth isn’t just technological. It’s conceptual, encoded in frameworks we are only beginning to rediscover. And the future of space sustainability lies not in the stars alone, but the wisdom of those who have been reading them the longest.”

Martin NAKATA

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Education & Strategy, James Cook University





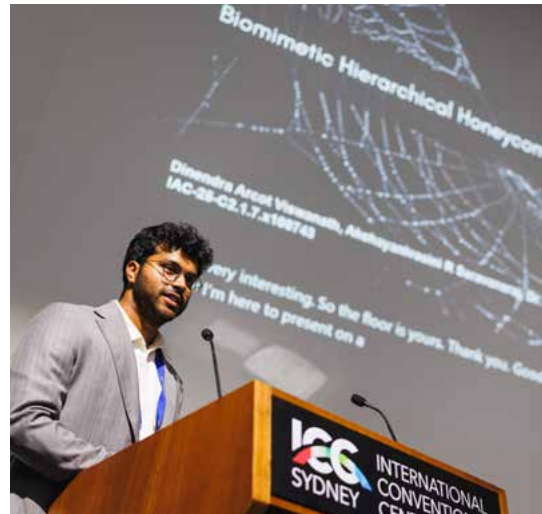
SPECIAL SESSIONS

SpS



MONDAY

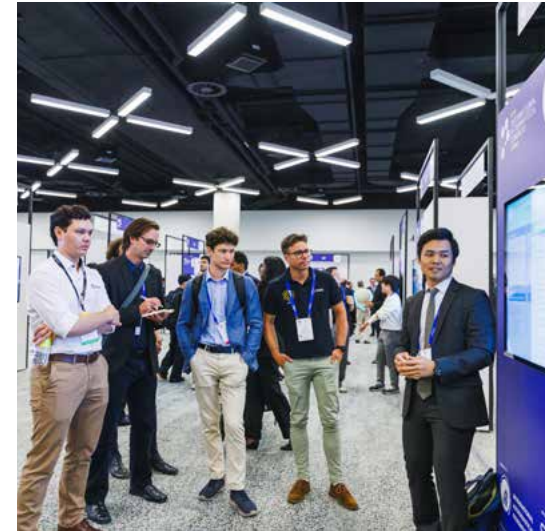
TECHNICAL SESSIONS



INTERACTIVE PRESENTATIONS (IP)



MONDAY



ARTEMIS ACCORDS

MEETING & PRESS CONFERENCE



The United Arab Emirates, Australia, and NASA co-hosted the Artemis Accords Principals' Meeting in Sydney. The subsequent press briefing provided an update on the progress of the Artemis Accords and highlighted recent developments.





WELCOME RECEPTION



The IAC 2025 Welcome Reception Street Party in Kensington Street and Spice Alley in Chippendale saw thousands of delegates enjoy the vibrancy of Sydney's nightlife.



MONDAY



TUESDAY

INDUSTRY DAY

INDUSTRY BREAKFAST

Sponsored by:



TUESDAY





This session inspired attendees with actionable insights on how circular economy practices can accelerate commercial success and establish the foundation for a sustainable, thriving in-space economy - one that benefits both orbital ecosystems and life on Earth.



TUESDAY

"The first step is actually not creating demand. It's cutting cost."

Max HAOT
CEO, Vast



37

36

IAF GLOBAL SPACE LEADERS SUMMIT



The second edition of the IAF Global Space Leaders Summit united 40 heads of space agencies worldwide, becoming the largest gathering of space agencies leaders ever to take place in Australia. Key discussions centred on space exploration, Earth observation, security, and space diplomacy.



TUESDAY



39



TUESDAY



INDUSTRY LUNCHEON

Sponsored by:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs
Education and Research EARE
State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI
Swiss Space Office



SWISSMEM



The recipients of this year's IAF Excellence in Industry Awards are **OHB** in the large industry category, and **D-Orbit** in the SME category.

TUESDAY



The session explored global efforts to establish a sustained human presence on the Moon. Featuring leaders from major space agencies and industry, the panel discussed recent lunar missions and technological innovations.



“IAC is a premier symposium in the world that brings together so many different nations to tackle challenges in space exploration.”

Jason KALIRAI
Mission Area Executive, Space Formulation, The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory



HLL

This lecture involved small satellites, industry payloads from startups, other companies and universities, and a commercial industry ride-share project.



TUESDAY



"We are developing and delivering space heritage for space companies."

Iver CAIRNS

Director of CUAVA, the ARC Training Centre for CubeSats, UAVs, and Their Applications Professor in Space Physics,
The University of Sydney

IAF GLOBAL NETWORKING FORUM



TUESDAY



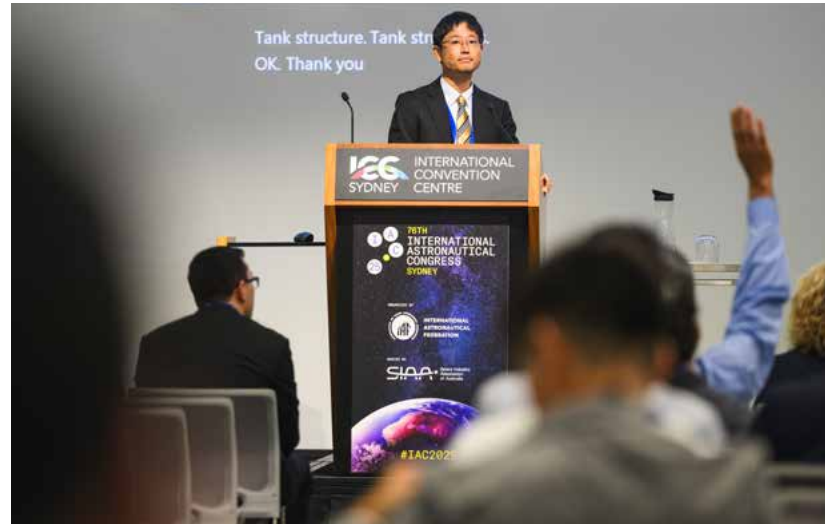
SPECIAL SESSIONS

SpS

TUESDAY



TECHNICAL SESSIONS



INTERACTIVE PRESENTATIONS (IP)



TUESDAY



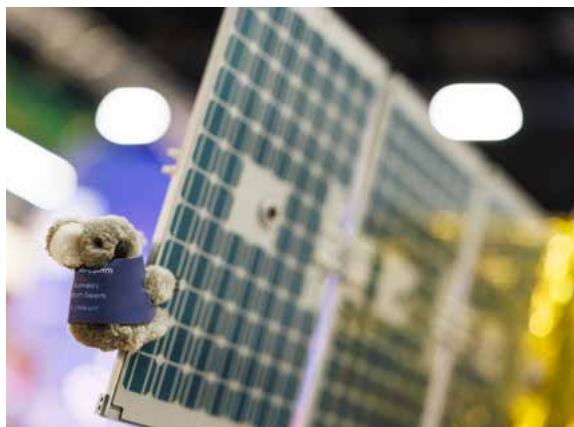
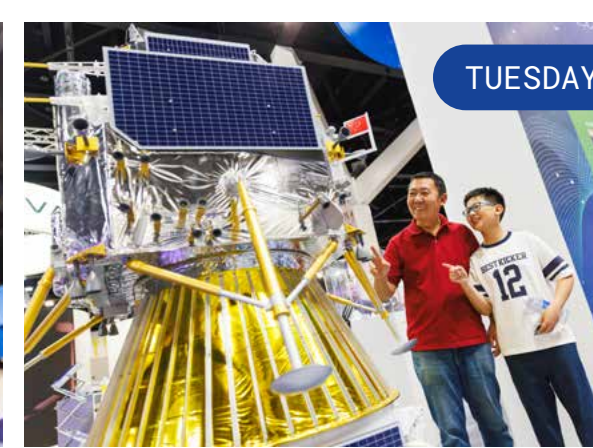
IAF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING RECEPTION



TUESDAY

EXHIBITION

TUESDAY



IAF IDEA 3G+ DIVERSITY BREAKFAST



WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY

DIVERSITY DAY





PE



WEDNESDAY

"We need to think about what does this look like when we say indigenous knowledges and how we work together. It's not just philosophy. It's not just theory. You're looking at the practice of indigenous knowledges."

Ren FREEMAN

Eastern Shoshone, Director, Research Coordinator, and Co-PI, Indigenous Research Center (IRC)



This panel brought together a diverse group of Indigenous and allied scholars, leaders, and researchers to discuss space technology, climate change, and relationship-building.

IAF IDEA 3G+ DIVERSITY LUNCHEON



WEDNESDAY



The IAF Excellence in “3G+” Diversity Award 2025 is bestowed **The Hong Kong Polytechnic University** and **Women in Aerospace**.





This panel addressed the diversity of human spaceflight needs in the coming decades.



“Think about the plethora of new items that we’re going to find when we go back to the Moon and then to Mars. I always feel like we’re in a whole new golden space age right now. We have the motivation, we have the people, we have the expertise now.”

Ashley KOWALSKI

Project Leader, International Programs, The Aerospace Corporation



WEDNESDAY



HLL

The lecture convened ADRAS-J's success as a pivotal moment for the space industry, proving that commercial missions can safely and effectively conduct complex RPO with unprepared debris.



"We want to have long term sustainability, and for that, we need long term security."

Iver CAIRNS

Director of CUAVA, the ARC Training Centre for CubeSats, UAVs, and Their Applications Professor in Space Physics, The University of Sydney

IAF GLOBAL NETWORKING FORUM



SPECIAL SESSIONS

SpS

WEDNESDAY



TECHNICAL SESSIONS



INTERACTIVE PRESENTATIONS (IP)



WEDNESDAY



PRESS CONFERENCE



The second edition of the IAF Global Space Conference on Climate Change (GLOC 2026) will be held in Kigali, Rwanda on 2 – 4 June 2026. Organized by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and hosted by its member the Rwanda Space Agency (RSA).



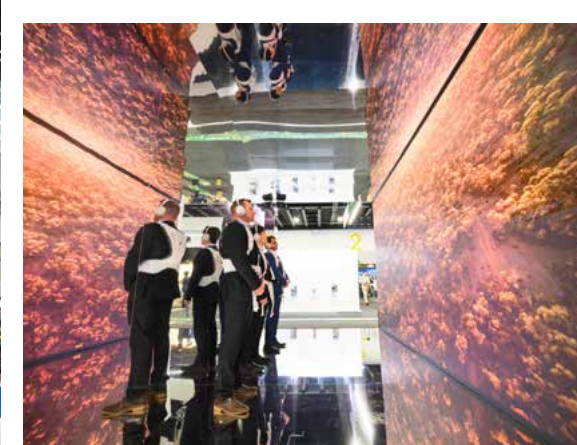
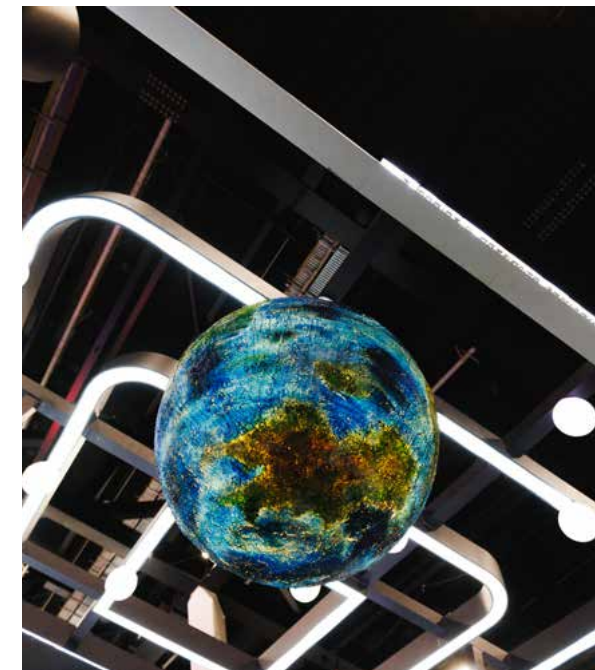
WEDNESDAY

IAF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS EVENT

WEDNESDAY



EXHIBITION



THURSDAY

SCIENCE AND ACADEMIC DAY

SCIENCE & ACADEMIC BREAKFAST

THURSDAY





The panel featured perspectives from the European Space Agency (ESA), the Australian Space Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), this panel encouraged meaningful action toward a sustainable space sector – one that remains accessible, safe, and beneficial for future generations.



THURSDAY

“Sustainability thrives on cooperation. Though we use space primarily to serve our domestic needs, in the long term, ensuring continued access to space is a shared responsibility.”

Gay Jane P. PEREZ

Deputy Director General for Space Science and Technology, Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA)

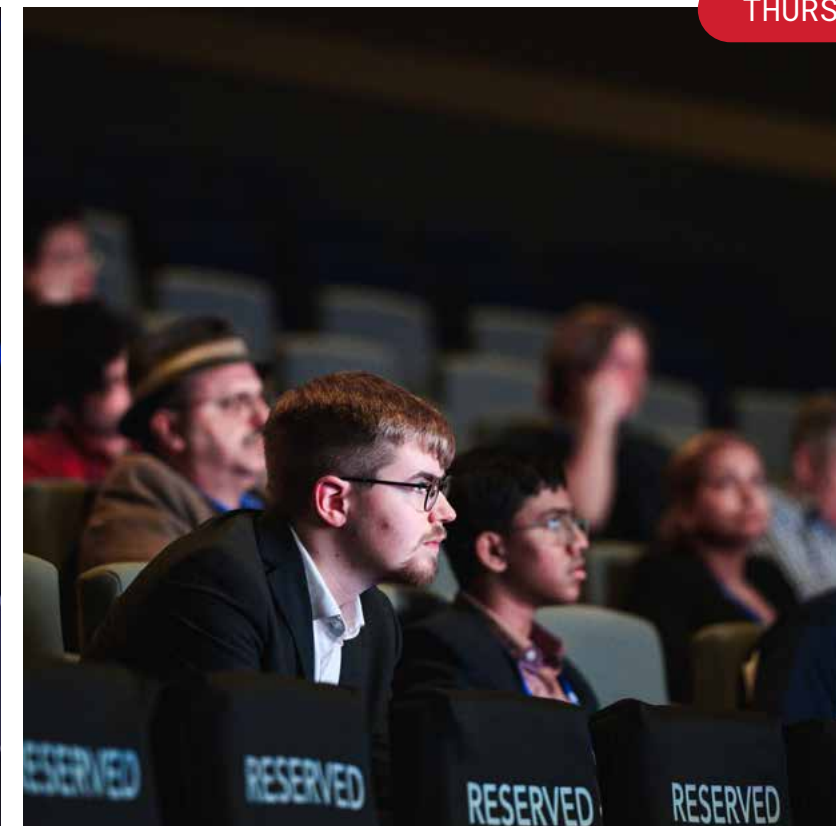




HLL



The lecture explored the Moon's unique potential as a platform for groundbreaking astronomical discoveries.



THURSDAY

“The cultural geography of the Moon is something we will be setting in this generation. And let us hope that we set a good example that will persist for a century to come or more, because, if we get it right, we will understand the universe and our place within it and we’ll be the better for it.”

Martin ELVIS

Senior Astrophysicist, Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH ASTRONAUTS

THURSDAY

This press briefing provided exclusive insights into astronauts' experiences at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC).



SCIENCE & ACADEMIC LUNCHEON



IAF GLOBAL NETWORKING FORUM



THURSDAY

SPECIAL SESSIONS

SpS

THURSDAY



TECHNICAL SESSION WITH ASTRONAUTS

ASTRONAUT TRAINING, ACCOMMODATION, AND OPERATIONS IN SPACE



The Astronaut Roundtable session brought together an international group of astronauts to share their experiences and insights on human spaceflight.



INTERACTIVE PRESENTATIONS (IP) AND IP AWARD CEREMONY



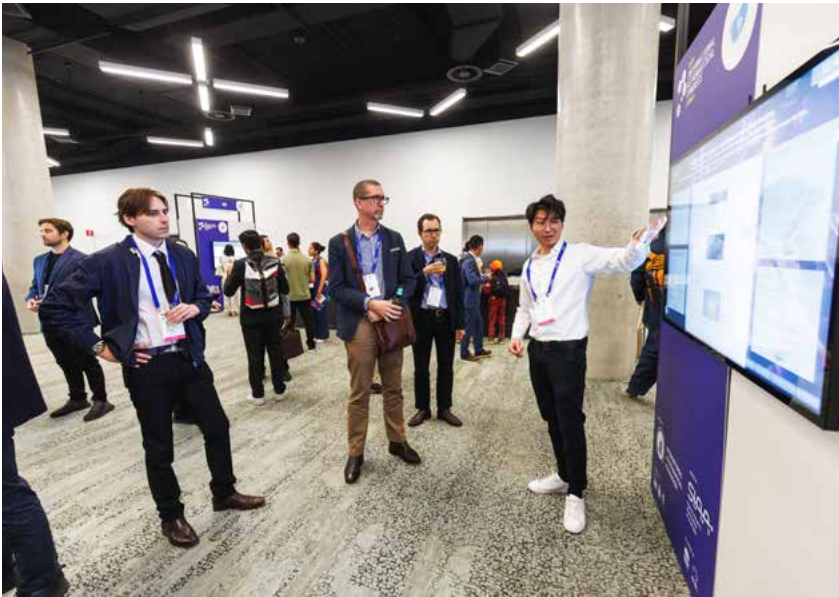
THURSDAY





IP Competition Winners 2025

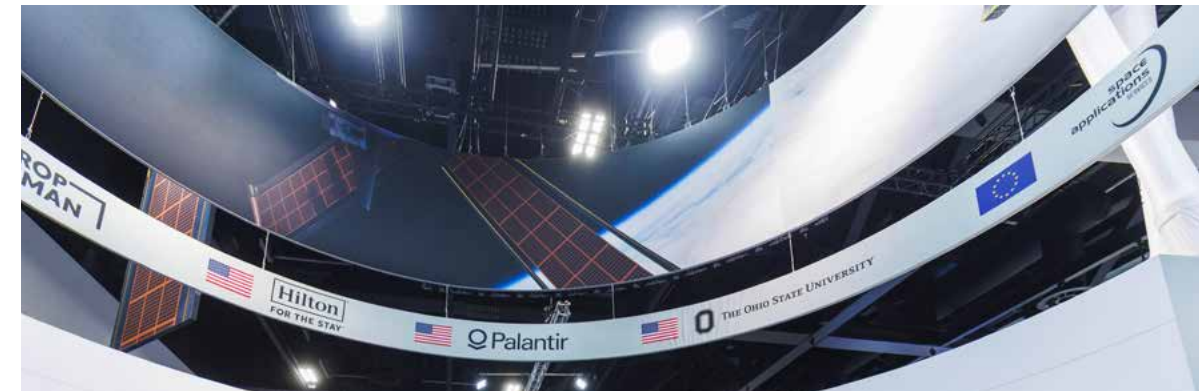
- Category A: Science & Exploration**
Mikhael Sayat, Republic of Singapore
- Category B: Applications & Operations**
Ilaria Cannezzaro, Italy
- Category C: Technology**
Bhavyashree Janardhana, Germany
- Category D: Infrastructure**
Erik Kulu, Estonia
- Category E: Space & Society**
Mark Sturza, United States



EXHIBITION



THURSDAY



FRIDAY

PUBLIC DAY



FRIDAY



"Discovery and action - that's what NISAR is about."

Karen ST. GERMAIN

Director, Earth Sciences Division, Science Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)



FRIDAY

"It is very important, in space industry, to understand failure, and learn from failure."

Adam GILMOUR

CEO and Co-founder, Gilmour Space Technologies

IAF GLOBAL NETWORKING FORUM



FRIDAY



SPECIAL SESSIONS

SpS

FRIDAY



TECHNICAL SESSIONS



FRIDAY



The IAF General Assembly selected Samarkand, Uzbekistan, as the Host city for the IAC 2028.



PUBLIC DAY



The IAC 2025 Public Day set new records, drawing over 11,000 participants, including 1,500 students.



FRIDAY

In a landmark leadership transition, Gabriella Arrigo, Director of International Affairs at the Italian Space Agency (ASI), was appointed as the new IAF President for a three-year term.

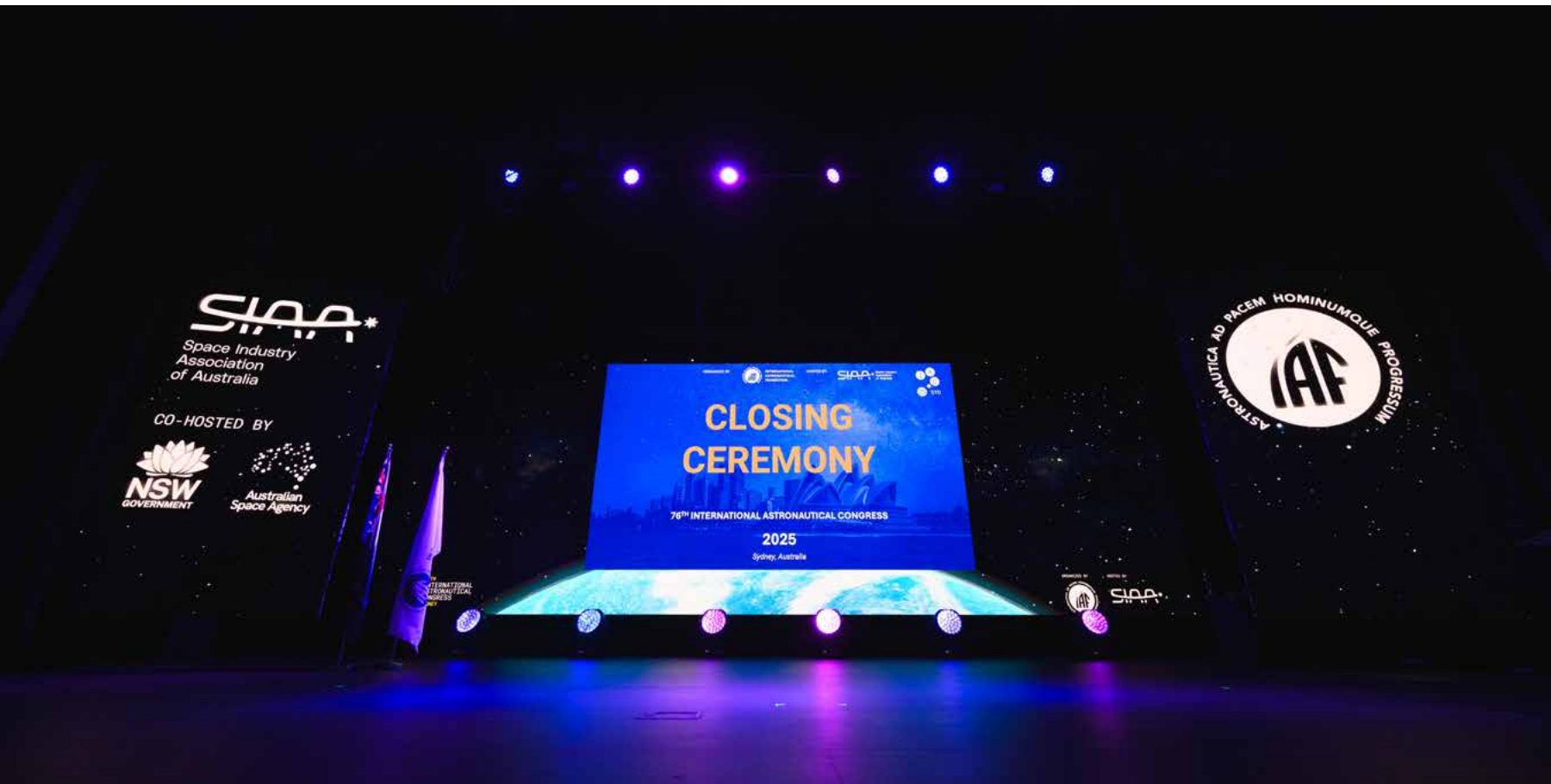
Four new Vice-Presidents have been elected to the IAF Bureau:

- **Yusuf Kiraç**, Turkish Space Agency (TUA), has been appointed as IAF VP for Relations with International Organizations;

- **Michael López-Alegría**, Axiom Space LLC, has been appointed as IAF VP for Astronauts Relations and Outreach;
- **Nikol Koleva**, Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC), has been appointed as IAF VP for Diversity Initiative;
- **Gaspard Twagirayezu**, Rwanda Space Agency, has been appointed as IAF VP for Emerging Space Ecosystems.



CLOSING CEREMONY



“Once again, we proved that space is not about one country, but about all humanity.”

Gabriella ARRIGO

President, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)



FRIDAY



At the Closing Ceremony, the IAF flag was ceremonially handed to the delegation of the Turkish Space Agency (TUA), host of IAC 2026 in Antalya, Türkiye.



GALA DINNER



FRIDAY



FRIDAY





32ND IAF WORKSHOP WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Under the theme “Resilient Coasts, Resilient Earth: Innovative Space Solutions for Coastal Resilience and Emergency Management” the Workshop gathered over 160 participants from 58 countries.

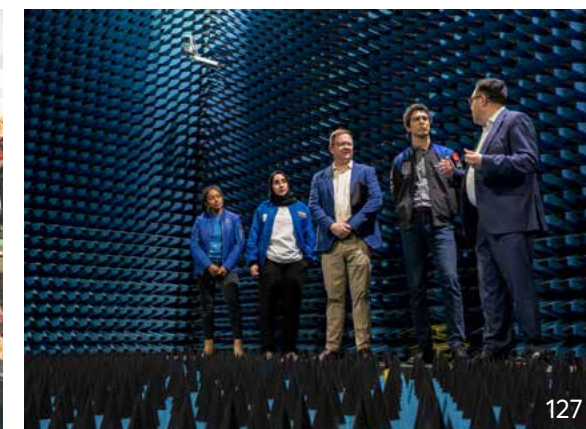
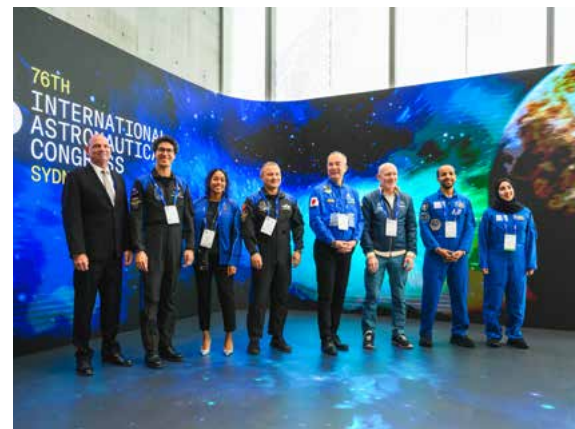


The 15th IAF International Meeting for Ministers and Members of Parliaments (MMoP) welcomed over 40 top-level policymakers, including 9 Ministers. The discussions focused on how space solutions support disaster management, societal development, and the protection of life on Earth.



4TH IAF INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTS CHAPTER

Among the many highlights of the landmark IAC 2025 is the 4th edition of the IAF International Astronauts Chapter – a distinguished initiative launched in 2023 by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). More than 20 international astronauts from around the world participated in a range of outreach activities in Sydney to inspire the global space community.





THANK YOU AND SEE
YOU AT IAC 2026!



ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE
5-9 OCTOBER 2026

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