



INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION



News

01/2026 (January 2026)

IAF President's Welcome

Dear IAF Friends,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the first IAF Newsletter of the year - my first as President of the International Astronautical Federation. I am particularly delighted by this initiative, as it offers a wonderful opportunity to communicate regularly with our growing global community and to stay connected as we pursue our shared mission of advancing space for the benefit of all.

The start of this year has already seen incredible momentum. The Federation is currently fully engaged in organizing the **IAF Global Space Conference on Climate Change (GLOC 2026)**, which will take place in the vibrant city of Kigali, Rwanda.

Rwanda continues to impress with its remarkable socio-economic development, forward-looking policies, and strong commitment to innovation. Its dedication to environmental protection and climate resilience, makes it an inspiring and relevant host for GLOC 2026. The conference will offer a unique opportunity to discover this dynamic African nation - open to new technologies, investments, and partnerships.

Preparations for the **77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026)** in Antalya, Türkiye, are also making excellent progress, building on the strong momentum and lessons learned from last year's Congress. The results of the IAC 2025 participants survey speak for themselves: 34.55% of delegates were between 18 and 29 years old, and 23.48% were between 30 and 39 - the young generation is coming, and they are bringing passion, talent, and fresh ideas.

This remarkable engagement from early-career professionals reinforces the importance of ensuring that IAC 2026 continues to be a powerful global platform for space leaders, researchers, engineers, and the next generation alike. Their growing presence fills me with optimism for the future of our Federation and for the space sector at large.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the **new IAF Members** who have joined our family in 2025. Your commitment enriches our community and strengthens our shared vision. In the spirit of our mission to connect all space people, I encourage you to make the most of this unique network - and remember that the Federation is always here to support you.

With spring just around the corner, I am very much looking forward to meeting many of you in person at the **IAF Spring Meetings 2026** in Paris, our annual gathering where ideas flourish, the IAC Final Programme takes shape, and the IAF community comes together even stronger.

Sincerely,

Gabriella Arrigo,
IAF President



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OUR LATEST PUBLICATIONS

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- [IAC 2025 HIGHLIGHTS](#)
- [2ND IAF GLOBAL SPACE LEADERS SUMMIT – FINAL REPORT](#)

IMPORTANT DATES & Deadlines:

- IAF Spring Meetings 2026, Paris, France: 24 – 26 March 2026
- GLOC 2026, Kigali, Rwanda: 2 – 4 June 2026
- IAC 2026, Antalya, Türkiye: 5 – 9 October 2026
- IAC 2027, Poznań, Poland: 27 September – 1 October 2027

Connecting @ll Space People
for a sustainable future



IAF PRESIDENT, GABRIELLA ARRIGO'S AGENDA 2026 - 2028

Origins, Representation, Inclusion And Engagement



In a landmark leadership transition at the conclusion of the 76th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025), Gabriella Arrigo, Director of International Affairs at the Italian Space Agency (ASI), was appointed as the new IAF President for a three-year term.

Her agenda as a President is inspired by the Federation's historic mission to foster scientific dialogue across political divides and her vision is built upon four key pillars:

"Over the past 35 years, I have devoted my professional life to fostering international relations and cooperation. I hope that this experience will serve the Federation well. However, I deeply believe that an efficient and productive Presidency can only be achieved through collaborative efforts with all of you. This means that my service and commitment are based on your great support. Let me briefly outline some of the priorities in my agenda summarized in 4 main pillars.

The first pillar is the

1. RETURN TO THE IAF ORIGINS

- IAF was founded in 1951 during the cold war, with the primary aim of promoting scientific and research dialogue between the opposing blocks.
- It is essential to recall the Federation's original mission, which was to promote dialogue among all countries, regardless of political, economic, technological, or scientific differences.
- My first commitment is, therefore, to return to IAF origins, by creating the best conditions for space cooperation among all nations and members.
- How can we achieve this goal? Step by step we must reinforce the conviction that Space is a powerful tool to inspire dreams, promote awareness and foster responsibility, both in Space and on Earth.

The Second pillar is related to

2. STRENGTHENING THE IAF'S ROLE IN REPRESENTING CIVIL SOCIETY AND GLOBAL SPACE COMMUNITY ENGAGING LEADERSHIP

- I am convinced that the main strength of the IAF lies in its nature as Federation. Unlike intergovernmental organizations with rigid processes and governance, its flexibility is its richness. This allows IAF to represent both civil society and global space community fostering dialogue among all stakeholders, including space agencies, academia, scientists, industry, policymakers, national and international authorities.
- Therefore, I would like to focus my attention on further enhancing the IAF capacity and ability to represent both the global space community and the civil society, engaging leadership of different countries and regions in space dialogue.

The Third pillar focuses on concentrating

3. MORE EFFORTS TOWARDS EMERGING AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- I have noticed that the participation in the IAF events and activities from certain regions such as Africa or Latin American communities remains limited, indicating that existing tools are either inadequate or insufficient.
- Therefore, I would like to intensify the efforts to identify sustainable financial mechanisms to facilitate the participation of representatives coming from all nations in space activities and related events.

Finally, The Fourth pillar is related to

4. REACHING GENERAL PUBLIC TO SHOW SPACE BENEFITS

- Considerable progress, indeed, has been made in this regard, nevertheless, the “Space message” as space dialogue, space benefits for society and humankind should be amplified to connect the communities from advanced, emerging and developing countries, as well as regional, local and international Authorities.
- Innovative communication tools and platforms are essential to this effort, and I am particularly keen to get inspired by fresh ideas from young people, emerging talents, and experienced professionals – starting with your relevant contributions.
- I look forward to working hand in hand with you all to advance the Federation’s mission, and to ensure that space continues to serve as a bridge between nations, cultures, and generations. The Presidency I now assume is not mine alone: it is a shared endeavour with each of you”.

Gabriella Arrigo

President

International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

IAF CELEBRATES 75 YEARS OF GLOBAL SPACE COOPERATION IN 2026



In 2026, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) proudly marks its **75th anniversary**, celebrating seven and a half decades of fostering international collaboration in space.

Founded in **1951** during the Cold War, the IAF was created with a bold and ambitious mission: to provide a **neutral and trusted platform for dialogue** among scientific communities divided by political blocs. Its founders believed that peaceful exchange and cooperation in space could transcend political, economic, and cultural boundaries - a vision that continues to guide the Federation today.

Seventy-five years later, that conviction remains as relevant as ever. While the world continues to face political and economic challenges, the IAF’s mission endures: to **promote dialogue and collaboration among all space actors globally, without limits, exclusions, or discrimination**.





What sets the IAF apart in today's rapidly evolving geopolitical and space landscape is not only its **inclusive approach**, but also the **concrete tools it provides to turn dialogue into meaningful cooperation**. Through its committees, IAF global conferences, and flagship events like the **International Astronautical Congress (IAC)**, the IAF continues to connect space agencies, governments, industry, research institutions, and students worldwide.

As we celebrate this milestone, the IAF reaffirms its commitment to **peaceful, international collaboration** in space, inspiring new generations of space leaders and innovators while shaping the future of global space exploration.

**Join us in 2026 as we celebrate 75 years of international cooperation
and look forward to the next chapter of human progress in space.**



THE IAF GLOBAL SPACE CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (GLOC 2026) 2 – 4 JUNE 2026, KIGALI, RWANDA

Waves of Change: GLOC 2026 Sparks Climate Resilience Worldwide

Topic	Abstracts
1 Climate Adaptation and Resilience	63
2 Green House Gas Monitoring and Impact Assessment	14
3 AI for Climate Adaptation and Resilience	47
4 Service Development and Data Access	18
5 Disasters and Emergency Management	23
6 Good Governance and Climate Policy, SDGs Alignment	28
7 Space Technology and Innovation for Climate	86
8 Economy, Finance and Investments for Climate Goals	14
9 Outreach, Education, Community Training and Knowledge Sharing/ International Collaboration	30

The response to the **GLOC 2026 Call for Abstracts** has been incredible: **323 abstracts from 59 countries covering all continents** have been submitted for the **2nd IAF Global Space Conference on Climate Change (GLOC 2026)**, taking place **2 - 4 June 2026 in Kigali, Rwanda**.

From cutting-edge satellite technology to AI-driven climate modeling and innovative sustainability frameworks, the diversity and depth of ideas already received promise a truly transformative event.

The submitted abstracts for GLOC 2026 reflect strong global engagement, with top contributions coming from India (38), Italy (31), Germany (21), Rwanda (20), the United Kingdom (20), Nigeria (19), the United States (16), Canada (13), Kenya (12), and Azerbaijan (11).

A Strong Voice from Africa

We are especially proud to see massive engagement from the African continent, with inspiring contributions from: **Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe**. These voices are helping shape a future where space empowers Earth, advancing climate resilience, equity, and sustainability across regions.

Why Join GLOC 2026?

At GLOC 2026, you will have the opportunity to:

- Present your research to a truly global audience shaping the next frontier of sustainability.
- Exchange ideas with top experts, policymakers, and innovators.
- Influence how space technologies are harnessed for climate action.
- Experience Green City Kigali, Rwanda's pioneering model for green urbanization.
- Discover Rwanda, a shining example of sustainable development in Africa.

Unite Space & Earth for Climate Resilience and be part of the movement defining our sustainable future.



THE CALL FOR GLOC 2026 LATE-BREAKING ABSTRACTS IS NOW OPEN!



GLOC 2026 is rapidly taking shape, and recent weeks; particularly the momentum following COP 30, have made one thing clear: global interest in climate collaboration is accelerating.

In response to this growing energy, we are pleased to launch a **Call for Late-Breaking Abstracts (LBA)** for the **IAF Global Space Conference on Climate Change (GLOC 2026)**.

This is not a routine deadline extension. Instead, it is a targeted opportunity to showcase bold, unexpected, and newly emerging ideas that align with the conference theme: ***"Uniting Space and Earth for Climate Resilience."***

We are seeking fresh findings, innovative concepts, and original projects that were simply too new to be included in the standard submission cycle. If your work has just come together, or is redefining current thinking, this is your moment!

Submit your LBA by **2 February 2026 at 23:59 CET**
at <https://iafastro.directory/iaf/account/login/>

Please note: the deadline is firm, with **no extensions**.

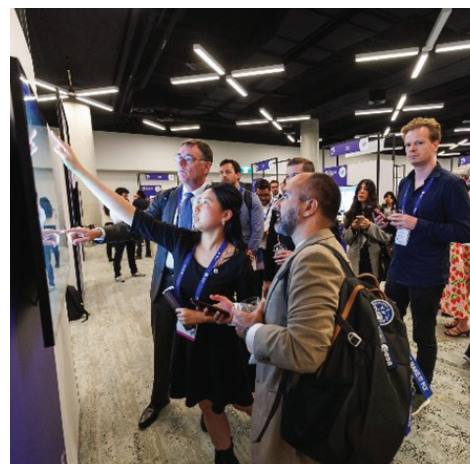
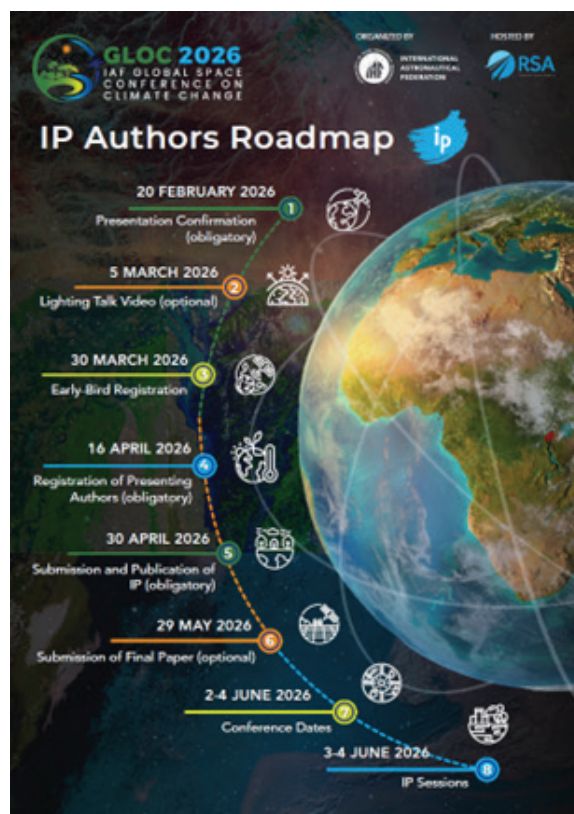
You can choose among the following topics:

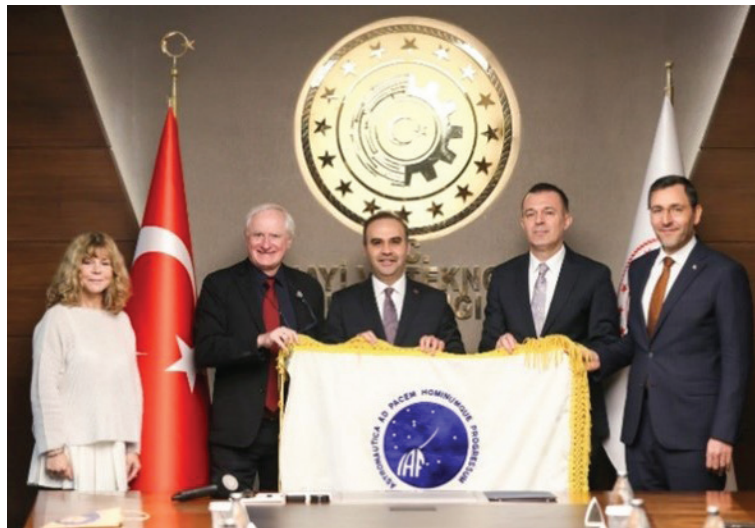
1. Climate Adaptation and Resilience
2. Green House Gas Monitoring and Impact Assessment
3. AI for Climate Adaptation and Resilience
4. Service Development and Data Access
5. Disasters and Emergency Management
6. Good Governance and Climate Policy, SDGs Alignment
7. Space Technology and Innovation for Climate
8. Economy, Finance and Investments for Climate Goals
9. Outreach, Education, Community Training and Knowledge Sharing/ International Collaboration

Successful submissions will be integrated into the **GLOC 2026 Technical Programme as interactive presentations**, joining a community of forward-thinking contributors whose work will be seen and heard on a global stage.

If you have timely insights or transformative concepts, now is the time to bring them forward.

We look forward to receiving your contributions!





77TH INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS 5 – 9 OCTOBER 2026, ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE

IAC 2026 Flag Presented in Antalya, Türkiye

Christian Feichtinger, Executive Director of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), together with Elena Feichtinger, Senior Advisor of the IAF, representing the organizers of IAC 2026, meet Mehmet Fatih Kacır, Minister of Industry and Technology, to advance the Congress's preparations.

IAC 2026 – Call for Proposals & Abstracts!

With the powerful theme *The World Needs More Space*, IAC 2026 calls on us all - scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, policymakers, academicians, and students - to offer solutions, spark dialogues, and push the boundaries of what space can mean for humanity. This theme is not just about outer space; it is about making space for innovation, sustainability, diversity, and global unity.

Whether you are pioneering satellite technologies, advancing space medicine, developing sustainable propulsion, exploring lunar missions, or tackling regulatory and ethical challenges, your work belongs on the IAC stage.

Ways to Engage at IAC 2026

Explore diverse formats and opportunities to bring your ideas to life. We have made it easier than ever with our “How to Engage in the IAC” guide - a step-by-step roadmap to submission formats, timelines, and requirements.



**CLICK HERE FOR THE
HOW TO ENGAGE IN THE IAC GUIDE**

Call for Plenaries & Highlight Lectures – Deadline 6 February 2026



Do you want to present a topic of general scientific or technological interest? Are you a scientific or a technical expert with a solid knowledge of the latest space-related topics? Submit your proposal for a Plenary or Highlight Lecture, and you can be selected to present in front of a large audience during the five days of the IAC.

The Plenary events are selected by the IPC Steering Group in a well-defined competitive selection process. You can find all necessary information on the selection criteria and the submission form on the IAF Website:

Call for IAF Global Networking Forum (IAF GNF) Sessions – Deadline 24 April 2026



The IAF GNF offers a unique opportunity to all IAF Members and future Members to participate actively and showcase their latest developments in front of a widely engaged audience. The aim of the IAF GNF is to provide Congress participants with a varied programme throughout the week, touching upon the most recent and hot topics in space, and to provide a one-of-a kind visibility experience for the organizers.

IAF GNF sessions will be selected and placed thematically within the overall programme, and will be divided in three timeslots: 30 minutes, 45 minutes and 60 minutes. Additionally, do not forget that you can actively support the GNF by sponsoring your session!

Call for Special Sessions (SpS) – Deadline 6 February 2026



Think interactive. Think fresh. Think multidisciplinary.

We are looking for engaging, hands-on formats such as design sprints, fishbowls, workshops, that encourage audience participation and cross-sector dialogue.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Must be participatory and interactive
- Must be multidisciplinary and cutting-edge
- Standard panels? Not suitable for an SpS

Call for Abstracts – Deadline 28 February 2026



Your research deserves the global stage.

Do you have original, unpublished work that deserves global attention? Submit your 400-word abstract for a chance to present at IAC 2026!

Papers may be selected for Oral or Interactive presentation - both are equally valued and published in the Congress Proceedings.

You can choose from over 200 Technical Sessions across the five IAC Technical Categories:

- A. Science & Exploration
- B. Applications & Operations
- C. Technology
- D. Infrastructure
- E. Space & Society

Technical Programme Webinar

Gain practical guidance on crafting strong abstracts and aligning your submission with the IAC 2026 theme.

[Watch it here](#)

**Do not miss the opportunity to contribute, connect, and help shape the future of space.
We look forward to welcoming you to Antalya for IAC 2026!**

EXCITING NEWS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SPACE PIONEERS! *40 IAF Emerging Space Leaders for IAC 2026!*

The future of the space sector lies in the hands of the **Next Generation**, with the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) leading the way!

In 2008, the IAF Emerging Space Leaders Grants Programme was launched, providing a select few young talents the opportunity to engage with the global space community at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC).

Throughout more than 17 years, the IAF has remained committed to the youth, uniting young space enthusiasts and equipping them to join the biggest gatherings of space professionals worldwide.

Year after year, the group has continued to grow. What began with just 10 participants expanded to accommodate 30 by 2022. This

expansion has created a strong and dynamic community, where past grantees aid newcomers, promoting a culture of sharing and collaboration in every cohort.

Following another impactful year and the growing interest for the Programme, the **International Astronautical Federation (IAF)** is excited to announce an expansion of **10 additional spots** to the **IAF Emerging Space Leaders Grant Programme**. In 2026, a **total of 40 recipients will be selected**, reinforcing the Federation's commitment to empowering the next generation.

Youth is the leading engine of the future and the IAF, in line with its mission, is looking forward to welcoming the 40 Emerging Space Leaders to the largest space gathering of the year, the IAC 2026, to take place in Antalya, Türkiye, from 5 to 9 October 2026!





IAF INTERNATIONAL SPACE FORUM 2025 AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL – SOUTHEAST ASIAN CHAPTER

4 December 2025, Manila, The Philippines

Fostering Regional Synergy in Space for Shared Challenges and Sustainable Development

Southeast Asia's rapidly growing need for space-based data took center stage at the IAF International Space Forum 2025 at Ministerial Level – Southeast Asian Chapter, held on 4 December 2025 in Manila, Philippines under the theme “Fostering Regional Synergy in Space for Shared Challenges and Sustainable Development”. The seventh edition of the Forum, co-organized by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the Italian Space Agency (ASI), and hosted this year by the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), brought together ministers, space leaders, scientists, and policymakers to chart a collaborative regional path for space-enabled development.

Serving as Master of Ceremony, Christian Feichtinger, IAF Executive Director, guided the Forum's proceedings, ensuring an energizing flow of dialogue among Southeast Asian and international stakeholders. In addition to the high-level keynote speakers and ministerial statements, the Forum featured a joint press conference with the leadership of IAF, ASI, and PhilSA, who underscored the rising urgency for cooperation in accessing and applying satellite data for climate resilience and disaster preparedness.

Participation in ISF 2025 was notably strong, with representatives from five ASEAN countries, guest delegations from Tunisia and Türkiye, and seven international space agencies and organizations, as well as more than 35 observers from the region. Their contributions brought diverse technical, scientific, and policy perspectives to the discussions, demonstrating a shared recognition of space as a strategic enabler for sustainable development.

Gabriella Arrigo, emphasized during her inaugural intervention as new IAF President that her three-year presidential agenda aligns strongly with the goals of the International Space Forum. A core pillar of her agenda focuses on fostering an inclusive and open dialogue among IAF members and partners worldwide. She highlighted that such dialogue must involve not only space agencies and industry but also non-space sectors and broader civil society, reflecting the conviction that space is not merely

an aspiration but a daily connection to technology, innovation, and the future. Welcoming the region's ambition, passion, and difficult questions, she noted that these are essential to the IAF's mission of advancing global space governance. She reminded participants that the Federation offers unparalleled access to global space leaders and key decision-makers who shape the direction of the space sector.

Christian Feichtinger, speaking as both IAF Executive Director and ISF 2025 Master of Ceremony, emphasized the organization's commitment to inclusivity and to strengthening the participation of emerging space nations. He remarked that Asia is now among the fastest-growing regions within the IAF, with membership from this region rising more rapidly than anywhere else in the world. However, he cautioned that the true challenge lies not in the availability of satellite data, but in ensuring that countries have the knowledge, access, and training to use it effectively. Free and open data, combined with strong capacity-building programmes are essential to ensure that space-derived insights translate into real-world impact.

Gay Jane Perez, Officer-in-Charge of PhilSA, highlighted that Southeast Asia is one of the regions most exposed to climate extremes, with recent floods and disasters demonstrating the devastating consequences of delayed or insufficient data. She noted that the humanitarian and economic toll of recent disasters - lives lost, communities displaced, and infrastructure severely damaged, serves as a grim reminder that vulnerability transcends national borders. According to PhilSA's Officer in Charge, satellite-derived information is becoming indispensable for early warning, environmental monitoring, and responsive disaster management. She stressed that the IAF International Space Forum provides an important platform for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to envision a regional space ecosystem capable of informing development planning and safeguarding communities.

Echoing these points, Maria Chiara Noto, Vice-Director for International Affairs at ASI, remarked that while Asia offers immense opportunities for space innovation, it also faces

significant challenges, including complex regulatory landscapes and frequent natural disasters. She emphasized that space cooperation is essential, and highlighted Italy's growing engagement with Asian partners through collaborations with Vietnam, Malaysia, and the ASEAN-Italy Cooperation Initiative on Space and Smart Technologies, which has strengthened regional partnerships since 2024.

The Forum's discussions revolved around three central themes: developing regional space infrastructures, enhancing the use of space-enabled services, and strengthening the broader space value chain through policy, education, research, and collaboration. Delegates collectively underscored that space technology is no longer a distant or specialized field, but a critical resource for addressing some of the region's most urgent concerns - from climate change and food security to maritime safety and social resilience.

PhilSA announced that it is working with ASI on a new memorandum of understanding that will formalize deeper cooperation in space infrastructure, applications, capacity

building, policy development, and research. Additionally, with the Philippines set to chair ASEAN in 2026, the country plans to propose an ASEAN Declaration on Space Cooperation. The initiative aims to strengthen regional unity, promote confidence-building measures, and enable more structured coordination on space activities across Southeast Asia.

The Final Report of the Forum, including the Manila Page Declaration, compiles the insights, statements, and commitments expressed during the event. More than a summary of proceedings, the document stands as a testament to the region's determination to build a robust, resilient, and cooperative space ecosystem that serves its people and safeguards its future.

As the IAF Forum concluded, organizers expressed hope that the momentum generated in Manila will continue to inspire new collaborations within Southeast Asia and across the global space community. With climate challenges intensifying and economic modernization accelerating, the region's investment in space capabilities is poised to become a cornerstone of its long-term resilience and growth.





2025 IAF DIVERSITY SURVEY

The Second Edition of a successful initiative for a more inclusive future

After a very successful first edition, the IAF Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Administrative (IDEA) Committee decided to renew the experience with the 2025 IAF Diversity Survey.

First launched during the IAF Spring Meetings 2024, the IAF Diversity Survey is an initiative that provide IAF members with a valuable opportunity to reflect on their diversity practices and assess their current situations while also setting goals for the future.

You are invited to join us in shaping a more inclusive and diverse future for the global space community! Support the IAF Diversity Initiative by taking a few minutes before the end of January to fill out the 2nd edition of the [IAF Diversity Survey](#) by clicking [here](#)!

You can view [here](#) all the 2025 IAF Diversity Promoters!

And who knows? Maybe this is just the beginning—who's ready for the survey's third edition?

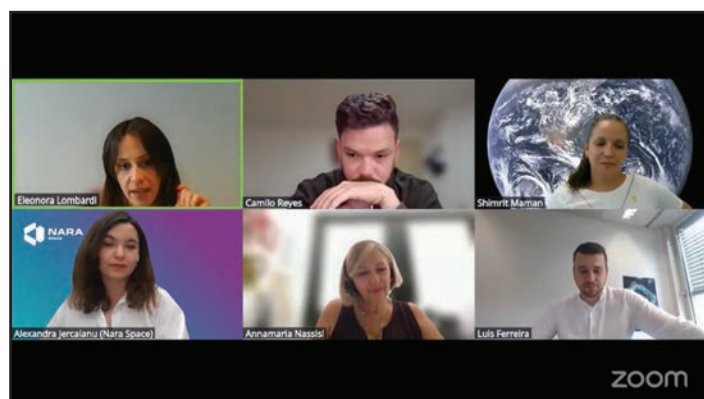


THE IAF TECHNICAL COMMITTEES WEBINAR SERIES IN COOPERATION WITH THE IAF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAMME (WD/YPP) COMMITTEE

The International Astronautical Federation is the world's largest hub of space enthusiasts, many of them participating in the IAF Technical Committees.

Composed of experts and global leaders who discuss and lead the evolution of space activities, these are powerful source of knowledge that shape the discussion of the yearly IAF events.

In this frame, the IAF Workforce Development/Young Professionals Programme (WD/YPP) Committee launched a new initiative aimed at recognizing the pivotal role of the Next Generation in the space sector as well as disseminating technical content through the IAF media platforms: **The IAF Technical Committees Webinar Series.**

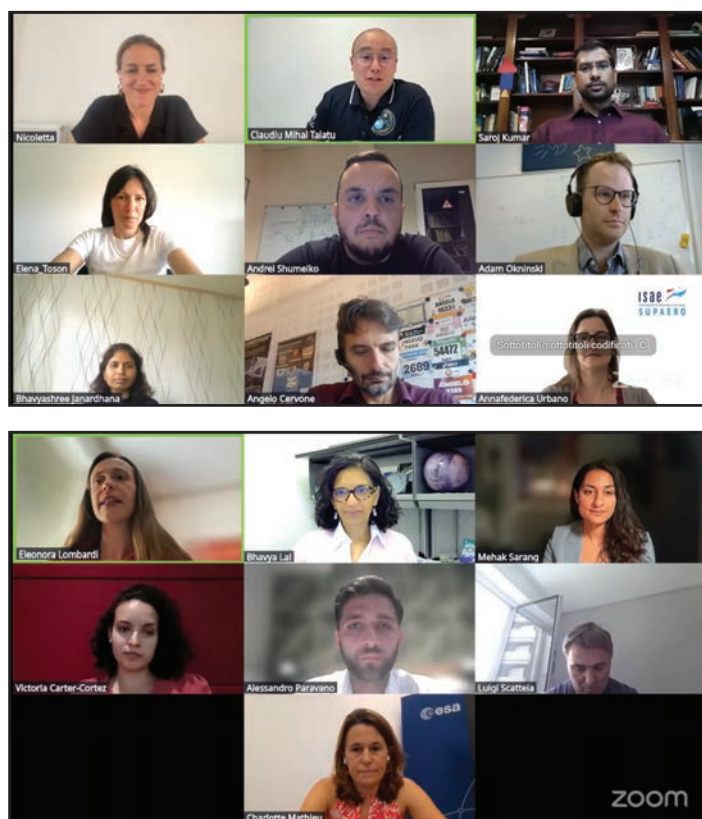


Following presentation during the annual IAF Spring Meetings, the IAF WD/YPP Committee held in 2025 three webinars focusing on relevant aspects of the new space era in cooperation with the IAF Space Propulsion Committee, the IAF Space Economy Committee and the IAF Earth Observation Committee.

Streamed on the IAF official YouTube channel, the events witnessed a large success among the community, with lively sessions moderated by the Vice-Chairs of the IAF WD/YPP Committee, where speakers had the opportunity to share their knowledge and visions on the most trending topics of their fields of expertise. Each session was followed by live Q&A sessions, allowing the audience for a direct engagement with the panellists.

The format turned out to be a successful hub where space and non-space community worldwide can get acquainted with latest trends and developments in the space sector.

The activity will resume in 2026 with the coverage of other key areas of the space industry, in cooperation with the other IAF Technical Committees.



Spring Meetings 2026

IAF SPRING MEETINGS 2026
24-26 March 2026 in Paris, France

As each year, the IAF is pleased to invite you to its Spring Meetings taking place in Paris, France where the IAF community will get together for three days, from 24-26 March 2026 in New CAP Conference Centre.





INTERVIEWS

The IAF has a long-standing tradition of engaging with members of its global community through interviews, offering unique insights into their experiences, perspectives, and visions for the future of space. In this edition of the IAF Newsletter, we are pleased to share interviews with three of the newly appointed IAF Vice Presidents, highlighting their priorities and aspirations for the Federation.



Yusuf KIRAÇ,
Turkish Space Agency (TUA),
*IAF VP for Relations with International
Organizations*

- What inspired you to pursue a career in the space sector, and how does this inspiration shape your leadership approach today?

From an early age, I was drawn to the almost invisible ways technology connects people across vast distances. That curiosity naturally led me to engineering and to building large-scale communication systems. Over time, I came to see that space is not only about exploration or prestige—it is about delivering real value on Earth, especially by strengthening connectivity and resilience when conventional systems are under stress.

That truth became deeply personal during the **February 6, 2023 earthquakes**, which devastated **12 cities**, including my home city **Kahramanmaraş**. At the time, I was serving as **CTO of Türk Telekom**, Türkiye's main internet service provider, and I witnessed firsthand how quickly terrestrial infrastructure can collapse in a large-scale disaster. In those critical hours and days, **space-based capabilities** proved essential in maintaining communications, coordinating response efforts, and supporting

the work that helped save thousands of lives. Seeing that impact up close reshaped my perspective: space technology is not “nice to have.” In emergencies, it becomes a lifeline.

That experience continues to shape how I lead today. I balance long-term vision with practical, measurable outcomes—and I'm driven by swift action and concrete results. **Türkiye has no time to waste in the space sector.** The world is moving forward at extraordinary speed, and we cannot afford to miss the opportunities that emerge in technology, talent, and international partnerships. For me, leadership means building momentum: setting clear priorities, moving fast where it matters, and turning strategy into deliverables.

I also believe deeply in collaborative leadership. Progress in space depends on bringing together government, industry, academia, and international partners around shared objectives—and on creating environments where young professionals are trusted, empowered, and encouraged to grow. At its best, leadership in space is about building ecosystems where curiosity is matched with discipline, and where international cooperation is not optional, but essential.

- **As the newly appointed IAF Vice President for Relations with International Organizations, what are your key priorities for fostering global cooperation in the space community?**

I see this role first and foremost as a bridge-building mission—turning goodwill and shared principles into cooperation that actually ships: joint programs, shared standards, and real exchanges of people, data, and capabilities. For me, “global cooperation” only matters if it becomes operational.

First, I want to strengthen the IAF’s relationships with key institutions across government, international organizations, and the wider space ecosystem, and make those relationships more productive. That means creating clear channels where priorities can be aligned early, friction can be reduced, and collaboration can move faster—whether the topic is connectivity, disaster resilience, capacity building, or long-term exploration. The goal is simple: make the Federation an even more effective convening platform that helps partners move from dialogue to delivery.

Second, I am committed to making cooperation more inclusive and genuinely two-way. Space is advancing quickly, but participation is still uneven. I want to amplify the voices and needs of emerging space nations, smaller agencies, universities, and innovative startups—especially by supporting practical mechanisms like matchmaking for partnerships, mentorship networks, and targeted joint initiatives that lower the barrier to entry. A more diverse space community isn’t just fairer; it’s smarter and more resilient.

Third, I want to promote responsible and sustainable space activities in a way that connects technical excellence with effective multilateral diplomacy. That includes encouraging best practices on safety, sustainability, and long-term stewardship—while keeping the focus on implementation, not slogans. If we want to protect the orbital environment and maintain trust, we need cooperation that produces shared norms, interoperable approaches, and measurable progress.

- **With IAC 2026 in Antalya, Türkiye, approaching, what excites you most about welcoming the international space community to your country on a personal level?**

Hosting **IAC 2026 in Antalya** is a historic moment for Türkiye and a strong signal of how far our space ecosystem has come. Türkiye is no longer only a participant in global space discussions—we are increasingly a contributor, with growing capabilities and ambitious long-term goals. Bringing the world’s largest space community gathering to our country will accelerate visibility, confidence, and collaboration at exactly the right time.

What excites me most is the energy transfer that happens when the global space community is physically in one place—scientists, agencies, industry leaders, startups, students, and policymakers exchanging ideas that quickly turn into partnerships. Antalya is uniquely suited for that: it’s accessible, welcoming, and culturally a crossroads between regions. IAC 2026 can become a platform not only for inspiring talks, but for practical outcomes—new joint initiatives, stronger networks, and real collaborations that move projects forward.

It is also a unique opportunity to showcase the **Turkish space ecosystem** to the world. Türkiye now has a growing base of **startups, young SMEs, and new-generation entrepreneurs** developing innovative technologies and services. IAC 2026 will give them a rare chance to meet global primes, agencies, investors, and research institutions in one place—introducing their capabilities, building trust, and creating the connections that turn ideas into international projects. That kind of exposure can be transformative, especially for early-stage companies that need partnerships, customers, and talent pipelines to scale.

On a personal level, it is deeply meaningful to welcome the international space community to Türkiye. I am especially excited to see young people—from Türkiye and from around the world—meet role models, discover new pathways, and realize they can belong in this field. If IAC 2026 helps our startups and SMEs build lasting global relationships, and inspires the next generation to commit their creativity to space, then it will have achieved something truly important.



Michael López-Alegría,
Axiom Space LLC,
IAF VP for Astronauts Relations and Outreach

- **Looking back on your career, from your first spaceflight to commanding missions on the ISS, which experiences or challenges have most shaped you as both an astronaut and a leader?**

The concept of extensive preparation has been a key lesson learned. Spaceflight can be notoriously unforgiving, but anticipating and training for contingencies greatly mitigates the risk of negative consequences of anomalies. The same is true in leadership – being prepared for less-than-optimal scenarios lessens their material impact while also easing their deleterious effects on team morale.

- **As someone actively involved in mentoring the next generation of astronauts, how would you describe the current astronaut community? In what ways do they differ from the era of early space pioneers, both in mindset and approach to exploration?**

The role of astronauts is constantly evolving. On the NASA side, from the days of the early capsules, where the focus was on piloting, to the Space Shuttle era, where there was still a great degree of concentration on specific roles (pilots, scientists, space walkers, robotic arm operators, etc.), to the ISS today, where astronauts must be jacks-of-all-trades, there has been variation in the breadth and depth of specialization. I foresee this to

continue to change as space stations become more automated, allowing astronauts to focus once again on particular areas of research, manufacturing and commercial activities.

- **What specific priorities do you hope to advance in your role as IAF Vice President for Astronauts Relations and Outreach?**

The role of astronauts is constantly evolving. On the NASA side, from the days of the early capsules, where the focus was on piloting, to the Space Shuttle era, where there was still a great degree of concentration on specific roles (pilots, scientists, space walkers, robotic arm operators, etc.), to the ISS today, where astronauts must be jacks-of-all-trades, there has been variation in the breadth and depth of specialization. I foresee this to continue to change as space stations become more automated, allowing astronauts to focus once again on particular areas of research, manufacturing and commercial activities.



Nikol Koleva,
Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC),
IAF VP for Diversity Initiative

- **As the IAF Vice President for Diversity Initiatives, what does this role mean to you personally?**

Serving as the IAF Vice President for Diversity Initiatives is a true honor and something I carry with deep pride and humility. To be surrounded by such well-established leaders, many of whom I have admired for years, is both inspiring and grounding. Being the youngest Vice President ever selected and the first Bulgarian to hold this position makes this role even more personal and meaningful to me. It is a powerful reminder that the space sector is evolving, and that leadership can come from new places and new generations.

I feel a strong sense of responsibility to bring a fresh, future-focused perspective to the Bureau. I represent a generation that is deeply global, interdisciplinary, and driven by purpose. My hope is to help ensure that the Diversity Initiative is not a standalone effort, but a lens applied across the Federation's work from policy and leadership to events and opportunity creation.

Above all, this role represents trust: trust in my vision, in my generation, and in the idea that the future of space must be built by a truly diverse community of people, ideas, and paths. That is something I do not take lightly, and it motivates me every day.

- **In terms of generation, how do you define “young generation”, especially in the context of lifelong learning and career development? How do age and experience interplay in fostering inclusion?**

While the UN and SGAC formally define “young professionals” as those between 18 and 35 years old, I believe the concept is much broader. Being a young professional or part of the “young generation” is not strictly about age. It's about mindset, stage of career, and openness to learning. I've experienced this personally: once, at a panel, an audience member challenged me as a leader because of my age, saying I simply didn't have the life experience or wisdom to guide others. I remember feeling the weight of that comment but also knowing it didn't define me. I don't believe that age alone determines someone's ability to contribute meaningfully or lead effectively.

At the same time, we must acknowledge that someone who has been working in a field for many years has had countless opportunities to grow, influence, and shape their environment. This means we must be vigilant in creating space and opportunities for newcomers, those who may be younger in age or new to a sector so that fresh ideas and perspectives can flourish alongside experience.

Age and experience are not opposites; they complement each other. Experience brings depth, perspective, and hard-earned wisdom, while youth brings curiosity, fresh thinking, adaptability, and the courage to challenge established systems. When these forces come together intentionally, real innovation happens. For me, true inclusion across generations happens when people are valued for their contribution, potential, and willingness to learn not just the number of years they have spent in the field. By linking curiosity with experience, and ambition with mentorship, we can build a space sector that is not only more inclusive, but also more resilient, innovative, and future-ready.

- **The IAF Diversity Initiative encompasses a broad range of topics beyond youth engagement. How do you define diversity in the context of the space sector, and what areas do you consider most critical to address?**

In the context of the space sector, I define diversity not only through characteristics such as gender, nationality, or background, but through access to opportunity, pathways to leadership, and belief in potential. If we focus only on what people look like or where they come from, we risk narrowing diversity instead of expanding it. True diversity is created when individuals from different regions, disciplines, and life paths are given real opportunities to contribute, grow, and lead.

My own journey into the space sector reflects this belief deeply. I did not come from a traditional technical or engineering background, I entered space through psychology, specifically through research in space psychology and human performance in extreme environments. That non-linear path shaped how I

see diversity today. I was not hired because I “fit” a predefined profile, but because of my potential. That experience taught me that inclusion is not only about representation, but about trust in future capability.

Today, as Executive Director of the Space Generation Advisory Council, I have the privilege of working with young professionals and students from 165 countries. What I see every day is that talent is truly global, but opportunity is not. This gap is where I believe the most urgent work must happen. We must focus on creating equitable access to education, funding, and early-career opportunities, especially for those in emerging space nations and underrepresented regions.

At the leadership level, diversity is just as critical. Within SGAC itself, I was the youngest member of the senior team and completely new to the organization when I was hired. I came

in as an outsider, without being shaped by internal history or “how things had always been done.” While the onboarding was challenging at first, that fresh perspective ultimately became one of my greatest strengths. It allowed me to question assumptions, see gaps others had grown used to, and help drive meaningful change. This experience reinforced my belief that diverse leadership is not only about background, but about mindset, perspective, and the courage to rethink established systems.

For me, diversity in space is ultimately future-facing. It is about who we choose to invest in, who we give platforms to, and who we trust with responsibility. If we focus not only on who has traditionally been included, but on who we are enabling to lead next, then the space sector can truly become global, inclusive, innovative, and sustainable.

WELCOME NEW IAF PROUD MEMBERS

The IAF General Assembly approved the applications of 57 new Member Organizations. With this, the IAF Membership comprises 604 Member Organizations from 82 countries, bringing 1 new country in the Federation Members' community: Belarus.



The New IAF Members are:

Organization	Category	Country
4iG Space and Defence Technologies	Space Industry	Hungary
Agencia Espacial Española	Space Agencies / Space Offices	Spain
Angkasa-X	Space Industry	Malaysia
ANYWAVES	Space Industry	France
ARRIBES	Space Industry	Spain
Astroengineering Technologies LLC	Space Industry	Belarus
AstroWorks Ventures LLC	Space Industry	United States
Beijing Zerog Space Technology Co., LTD	Space Industry	China
BERLIN SPACE Consortium GmbH	Space Industry	Germany
Cangyu Space	Space Industry	China
Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios Espaciales	Universities	Argentina
CHASM	Associations and Professional Societies	Switzerland
Codimaths	Space Industry	India
Department of Electronic Communications	Space Agencies / Space Offices	Cyprus
DHV Technology	Space Industry	Spain
ELITAI SPACE AND DEFENCE	Space Industry	Italy
EOIntelligence	Space Industry	Canada
Epyphite Corp	Space Industry	Singapore
Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique	Research and Development Organisation	France
Geospatial AI Sdn Bhd	Space Industry	Malaysia
Gilmour Space	Space Industry	Australia
GTD	Space Industry	Spain
GTL Co., Ltd.	Space Industry	Republic of Korea
Harbin Institute of Technology	Universities	China
Harpy Aerospace	Space Industry	India
Involve	Space Industry	Italy
Korea AeroSpace Administration	Space Agencies / Space Offices	Republic of Korea
Laboratory for Space Research, The University of Hong Kong	Universities	Hong Kong - China



Organization	Category	Country
Lunar Policy Platform (LPP)	Space Industry	Estonia
MITRE	Research and Development Organisation	United States
MSP Philippines	Space Industry	Philippines
Nokia Bell Labs	Space Industry	United States
Obuda University	Universities	Hungary
ocullospace	Space Industry	Singapore
Omspace Rocket and Exploration Pvt Ltd	Space Industry	India
OrbitArch	Space Industry	India
Prague Security Studies Institute	Associations and Professional Societies	Czech Republic
Praxis Aerospace	Space Industry	Australia
PRETO BUSINESS Corp.	Space Industry	United States
Quality Training Academy	Universities	Saudi Arabia
Rendezvous Robotics	Space Industry	United States
SAFE ON ORBIT.SPACE	Space Industry	Brazil
Satcom Industry Association (SIA-India)	Associations and Professional Societies	India
Satlab	Space Industry	Denmark
Science Museum Group	Space Museums	United Kingdom
Shanghai Anzhe Technology Co., Ltd	Space Industry	China
Shenzhen University	Universities	China
Solar Space Technologies Pty Ltd	Space Industry	Australia
Technical University of Munich	Universities	Germany
Turin Polytechnic University in Tashkent	Universities	Uzbekistan
Ubinexus	Space Industry	China
Universidad Nacional Tecnológica de Lima Sur	Universities	Peru
University of Canterbury	Universities	New Zealand
Veganaut, Inc	Space Industry	United States
Western Australian Space Science Education Centre	Space Museums	Australia
Zenith Law Firm	Space Industry	China
Zhejiang E.O. Paton Welding Technology Research Institute	Research and Development Organisation	China

IAF MEMBERS' NEWS!



The **American Astronautical Society (AAS)** is pleased to share several recent milestones that reflect our ongoing commitment to advancing the global space community. This year, we had the honor of presenting the AAS Lifetime Achievement Award to legendary NASA Flight Director Gene Kranz, whose leadership during Apollo 11, Apollo 13, and other historic missions continues to inspire generations of space professionals.

We also marked the successful launch of Ohio Space Week, beginning with the AAS Glenn Symposium. The event featured distinguished speakers including SpaceX's William Gerstenmaier, who led dynamic discussions on the future of space innovation and the growing commercial aerospace industry.

Our annual von Braun Space Exploration Symposium further strengthened dialogue across the sector, with keynote insights from author and journalist Christian Davenport, former NASA Administrators Jim Bridenstine and Charles Bolden, and Michael Lopez-Alegria, Chief Astronaut at Axiom Space. Their perspectives enriched conversations on the current landscape and the evolving frontiers of space exploration. The symposium also underscored AAS's commitment to student engagement, with members of the University of Alabama in Huntsville Space Hardware Club presenting on their CanSat experience and highlighting the critical role hands-on competitions play in developing future aerospace leaders.

Looking ahead, planning is underway for the AAS Goddard Symposium this March, where we will continue fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and community engagement. We invite all members and partners to stay connected as we build upon these achievements in the year ahead.



Building Up the Next Generation of Scientific Society Leaders

AIP recently published a report documenting that scientific societies are facing a pivotal moment. Scientific societies are vital to the health of the scientific enterprise, yet early-career researchers remain underrepresented in leadership roles. While leadership transitions are inevitable, recent research shows that only 2% of society leadership positions are held by early-career professionals. Understanding how early-career scientists and engineers become engaged and what keeps them involved is critical for sustaining strong societies.

We interviewed 22 early-career scientists and engineers across our federation's ten member societies and revealed a consistent theme: most first learned about their societies during undergraduate or graduate education through faculty mentors and advisors.

These mentors played a central role in encouraging membership, explaining benefits, and helping students navigate their first conferences. For many early-career leaders, attending a society conference for the first time was a formative and positive experience. Even when attendees felt anxious, welcoming mentors and inclusive conference communities helped foster a strong sense of belonging.

Community and networking emerged as the most valuable benefits of society membership. Early-career leaders learned about volunteer opportunities through mentors, colleagues, society emails, and conference sessions. Motivated by a desire to give back and make a difference, they contributed by launching new programs, building member communities, supporting conferences, conducting outreach, and participating in advocacy efforts.

The findings point to clear strategies for engaging early-career members. Societies can strengthen leadership pipelines by prioritizing outreach to student mentors, investing in local and regional chapters, creating open and approachable committee environments, and continuing conference programming that actively welcomes early-career attendees. By doing so, societies can empower early-career professionals to become the next generation of leaders shaping their fields.

Learn more about this research and additional resources to support early-career leaders in science by visiting AIP at <https://bit.ly/4qctwC7>.



وكالة البحرين للفضاء
BAHRAIN SPACE AGENCY

The Bahrain Space Agency (BSA) hosted the annual NASA Space Apps Hackathon in two locations in the Kingdom with the highest global growth rate in the number of participants, with an increase of approximately 80% compared to last year.



The BSA had its first booth in the IAC 2025 Sydney in collaboration with Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority and Exhibition World Bahrain. During which BSA signed MoU with the Italian Space Agency (ASI) aimed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in peaceful space exploration, capacity building, and the implementation of joint projects, reflecting the strength of the strategic relations between the two countries.





BSA organized two workshops in collaboration with University of Strathclyde Bahrain, S Eleven Education, and University of Bahrain presented by Candace Johnson discussing applications of space technology and investment opportunities, and the future of the space industry and its economic impacts.



Additionally, BSA explored avenues for cooperation and growing the space sector in the region by leveraging Candace Johnson's

expertise.



BSA has also organized Space Cyber Security Hackathon in Bahrain in collaboration with the National Cyber Security Center as part of DEFCON with participants that formed several teams representing various academic disciplines.



BSA also participated in the Middle East and North Africa Space Diplomacy Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and implemented by the Meridian International Center in the United States to support international cooperation in the space sector by fostering dialogue between the United States and its partners in the MENA region.





In November 2025, Belém, a major urban center in northern Brazil, hosted the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP). In addition to the core climate agenda, the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB) highlighted the role of space-related initiatives in addressing global environmental challenges. Discussions emphasized how international cooperation among space agencies can enhance the use of satellites, remote sensing, monitoring systems, and collaborative programs aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change. For more: <https://cop30.br/en>

In parallel with this initiative, Brazil also advanced its international cooperation agenda by hosting the BRICS Space Agencies Exchange on UN COPUOS LTS Guidelines, that took place on December the 3rd, 2025. The event brought together BRICS member agencies to share implemented measures, exchange experiences, and strengthen joint efforts toward the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

As the year concludes, AEB President Marco Antonio Chamon emphasized that 2025 marked a turning point for Brazil's role in promoting space sustainability, combining national progress with strengthened international cooperation. He noted that the Agency's achievements throughout the year reflect Brazil's growing commitment to responsible space activities and to advancing long-term sustainability within the global space community.



International Conference on Space Habitation and Exploitation 2025 Successfully Hosted by Chongqing University, China

International Conference on Space Habitation and Exploitation 2025 (ICSHE2025) was chaired by Academician YU Dengyun and Academician WANG Chi of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), with Academician Michel Blanc and Academician XIE Gengxin of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) and Professor QIAN Jin serving as the Executive Chairs. Over 300 participants from Chinese Academy of Sciences, Purdue University, University of Edinburgh, Sydney University, IRAP French, Peking University, Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University, Chongqing University, the Chinese Society of Astronautics etc. attended ICSHE2025.



Group Photo

Academician XIE Gengxin hosted the conference. With the theme of Space Habitation and Exploitation, ICSHE2025 focused on four topics: Lunar Survival Base Construction & Cave Development and Utilization, Spatial Information Perception and Decision-Making, Space Laser and Manufacturing Technologies and Applications, and Collaborative Cultivation of Innovative

Young Talents in Space Exploration. Forty-four presentations were delivered by academicians and experts during ICSHE2025.



Academician XIE Gengxin hosted ICSHE2025



Academician WANG Chi (Right) was awarded with Certificate by Academician XIE Gengxin (Left) after WANG's Presentation.

Collaborative Cultivation of Innovative Young Talents in Space Exploration was a significant highlight of ICSHE2025. The "First Green Leaf on the Moon Science and Innovation Fund" was launched in this session, this fund is dedicated to publicly supporting the cultivation of young innovative talents. Outstanding teenagers from China were invited to participate in this session. Through in-depth interactions with experts, the session aimed to stimulate the youth's interest in space science and technological innovation.



Launch of the First Green Leaf on the Moon Science and Innovation Fund



Some participants attended the session of Collaborative Cultivation of Innovative Young Talents in Space Exploration

The success of the ICSHE2025 provides a high-level exchange platform for international and China domestic professionals engaged in space survival technology and utilization of in-situ space resources. The large number of participated academicians and experts further highlights the leading role of space survival and utilization in guiding the future of space exploration.

It is worth mentioning that the first ICSHE was hosted by Chongqing University in Chongqing in November, 2024, attracting over 500 participants. During ICSHE2024, the launch ceremony was held for *Space Habitation* (ISSN 2950 6166), the world's first English-language international journal dedicated to space habitation. The journal features a rapid review process, no APC charges, and welcomes submissions from researchers worldwide. The ICSHE2026 is tentatively to be held in UAE, November 7-9, 2026. Please stay tuned.

More information here:

<http://www.cose.edu.cn/info/1038/2257.htm>

<https://www.keaipublishing.com/en/journals/space-habitation>



Next-generation meteorological satellites already delivering on their promise

2025 was a landmark year for the European meteorological community and EUMETSAT, marked by the launch of three next-generation satellites which have begun to deliver their first images and data. Metop Second Generation A1, launched on 13 August, is already transmitting high-resolution observations from its six sounding and imaging missions. Early data from the microwave and radio occultation sounders promise inputs of unprecedented precision for numerical weather prediction. The first images from the Multi-Viewing, Multi-Channel, Multi-Polarisation Imager (3MI) demonstrate its unique capability to monitor the atmosphere from multiple perspectives for improved forecasting, air-quality analysis and climate monitoring. METImage's initial Earth views show exceptional

detail and colour, supporting more reliable forecasts and earlier, targeted warnings. Initial spectra from the IASI-NG instrument highlight its ability to detect a wide range of chemical species, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitric acid and ozone. Together, 3MI, METimage and IASI-NG work synergistically with the European Union's Copernicus Sentinel-5 mission, whose first images showcase powerful new air-pollution monitoring capabilities.

Meteosat Third Generation Sounder-1, launched on 1 July, is Europe's first geostationary atmospheric sounding satellite. Equipped with the Infrared Sounder and the Copernicus Sentinel-4 mission, it will deliver high-frequency data on temperature, humidity and trace gases across the atmosphere. Early Sentinel-4 images already demonstrate its ability to monitor air pollutants over Europe every hour, supporting timely air-quality forecasts and health warnings. Initial data from the Infrared Sounder will follow in January 2026.

In November, the Copernicus Sentinel-6B satellite was launched to secure the long-term continuity of global mean sea-level monitoring. It is already sending data. Operated by EUMETSAT, its data will continue to support climate services and scientific research for years to come.

More information here:

<https://www.eumetsat.int/our-satellites/upcoming-launches>



Tropospheric sulphur dioxide (SO₂) concentrations over Southern Europe in the lowest 10km of the atmosphere, as seen by **Copernicus Sentinel-4 on 8 October 2025**. High concentrations can be seen over Sicily, a signature of plumes from Mount Etna. Sulphur dioxide can contribute to health problems including heart and lung disease, and asthma. Some features might be masked by clouds.

Image illustrative and not for operational use.

Credit: Contains modified Copernicus Sentinel data (2025), processed by BIRA/DLR/ESA



Image: EUMETSAT

Captured between 10:43 and 10:59 CEST on 24 September, **METimage's very first image** shows clouds connected with a cold weather front sweeping across central Europe and signs of convective storm activity developing over the Adriatic and central Mediterranean seas. High altitude, wispy cirrus clouds hint to potential turbulence over the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, while thin aircraft contrails are clearly visible over cloud-free western Denmark.

Where skies are clear, the Earth's surface is revealed in fine detail: shimmering lakes can be seen in Türkiye, including the bright white salt flats of Lake Tuz, as well as the green landscapes of the Carpathians and Balkans, and Libya's Waw an Namus volcanic caldera. Compared with AVHRR's ~1 km resolution, METimage's 500-metre view delivers about four times more detail, making it possible to pick out narrow cloud streets, thin valley fog and subtle coastal colour changes with far greater clarity.



THE HONG KONG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學

PolyU Advances Deep-Space Science Through "Deep Space Culture" Creative Design Competition and Exhibition

To promote deep-space science, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University is launching The "Deep Space Culture" Creative Design Competition and Exhibition, planned to take place in the first quarter of 2026 on the university campus. Jointly organised by the Deep Space Exploration Laboratory (DSEL) and PolyU,

this new initiative aims to ignite aerospace innovation, cultivate public interest in deep space science, and nurture creative talent in this emerging cultural field.

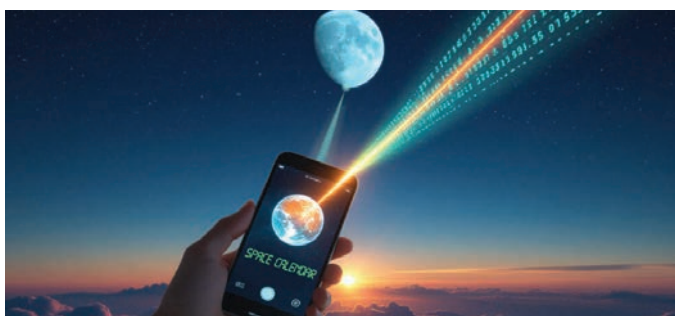
The event aspires to integrate art, technology, and imagination, fostering a deeper understanding of how space exploration can inspire new cultural perspectives on sustainability, collaboration, and innovation.

Featuring distinct categories for both general and student entries, the competition encourages designers, artists, and innovators to express their visions on humanity's future in deep space through imaginative creations. The programme will encompass a thematic exhibition of selected creative works, a series of lectures by distinguished researchers and designers, and a culminating award ceremony recognising outstanding contributions.



International Lunar Observatory Association (ILOA Hawai'i) is looking forward to New Year 2026 and upcoming international lunar missions, while developing observation and communication instruments for its flagship mission ILO-1, and selecting a landing provider for backup ILO-2.

ILOA is participating in the Astrolab FLIP mission, launching NET July 2026, with affiliated Space Age Publishing Company by sending **Space Calendar** and [Moon Messages](#) to the Moon surface.



The **ILO-C camera**, launching NET August 2026 and landing November 2026 aboard Chang'E-7 lander, is an international astronomy collaboration project involving representatives from USA, China, Thailand, Hawai'i, Indonesia and India.

ILO-1 is under contract for design and development with Canadensys Aerospace for integration on the Astrolab FLEX-C rover's lightbar. ILO-1 will function as a deep-space observatory, imaging the Milky Way Galaxy / Center from the lunar surface,

and establish two-way commercial Lunar Broadcasting communications – sending and receiving data to and from the Moon NET 2027. ILO-1 will aim to operate remotely for at least one year following deployment.

The [Galaxy Forum](#) program will also host and cohost 21st Century education events around the globe in 2026, adding to the 120 Galaxy Forums already held on all 5 major continents.

Visit our websites to learn more! <https://iloa.org/>



International Space University Launches MOON SHOT 2030 and Welcomes New Chancellor Eytan Stibbe

The International Space University (ISU) has launched *MOON SHOT 2030*, an ambitious global strategy designed to ensure ISU's long-term sustainability while expanding its impact on the rapidly evolving space ecosystem.

MOON SHOT 2030 focuses on strengthening ISU's academic portfolio, expanding executive and professional education, and deepening partnerships with governments, industry, and international organizations worldwide. Central to the strategy is ISU's commitment to preparing a diverse, globally distributed space workforce equipped to address the technical, policy, economic, and societal challenges of the new space economy.



In support of this vision, ISU is pleased to welcome Eytan Stibbe as its new Chancellor. A former fighter pilot, entrepreneur, and astronaut, Eytan flew to the International Space Station in 2022

as part of the Axiom-1 mission, where he led a wide range of scientific, educational, and outreach activities. His unique perspective—bridging spaceflight experience, entrepreneurship, and international collaboration—strongly aligns with ISU's interdisciplinary mission.

Under MOON SHOT 2030 and with the guidance of its new Chancellor, ISU is advancing innovative education models, regional engagement initiatives, and industry-relevant programs that reflect the increasingly commercial, international, and sustainable nature of space activities.

As ISU looks toward 2030, it remains dedicated to fostering global cooperation and developing space leaders capable of shaping the future of space for the benefit of all humanity.



KAI Marks Major Milestones with CAS500-3 and KOMPSAT-7

Korea Aerospace Industries, LTD. (KAI) has achieved two major milestones in Korea's space program with the successful launch of the CAS500-3 satellite (Nov 27, 2025) and the development and delivery of the spacecraft bus for KOMPSAT-7.

These achievements reaffirm KAI's role as Korea's leading satellite system integrator and a key enabler of the nation's sovereign space capabilities.



Figure 1. CAS500-3 (Source: KAI)

CAS500-3, developed using KAI's standardized CAS500 mid-size platform, enables economical and timely payload integration while supporting a broad range of mission requirements. The third satellite in the series (CAS500-3) is dedicated to scientific

research, carrying payloads designed to advance Korea's space science and technology capabilities.

Its key missions include:

- 3D Printing-Based Stem Cell Differentiation and Cultivation Experiment
- Space Plasma and Magnetic Field Measurement
- Aurora and Airglow Observation



Figure 2. KOMPSAT-7 Launch (Dec 2, 2025, Source: Arianespace)

KOMPSAT-7 represents a major leap forward in Korea's Earth-observation capabilities. According to KARI, KOMPSAT-7 is being developed as a world-class optical satellite to fulfill national demand for precise geospatial imagery.

KAI led the satellite bus development, system integration, and assembly, delivering a spacecraft designed to support high-precision imaging for land monitoring, disaster response and other national applications.

These dual accomplishments showcase the maturity and flexibility of Korea's satellite development ecosystem—from standardized platform engineering to advanced satellite bus and payload integration.

Leveraging this foundation, KAI will continue advancing mission-proven satellite programs and supporting national priorities while contributing to the global space community.

LIQUIFER SPACE SYSTEMS

In 2024–2025, LIQUIFER Space Systems achieved significant milestones in the development of advanced human-centred space habitation solutions, strengthening its role as a key contributor to next-generation orbital infrastructure.

A major achievement this year is the continued development of **FLECS (Foldable Living Environment for Crew Support)**, a versatile and modular private cabin concept designed for human spaceflight. Initiated in May 2024 as a 24-month project supported by **ESA-BIC and the City of Bremen**, FLECS represents a breakthrough in flexible crew accommodation. The foldable system requires no permanent infrastructure, can be rapidly deployed or stowed in microgravity, and integrates ventilation, lighting, storage, workspace, and sleeping functions. Its mass- and volume-optimised design ensures structural integrity, acoustic comfort, and adaptability for both short- and long-duration missions. The modular architecture allows FLECS to be reconfigured as a crew cabin, galley, or hygiene module, offering a scalable solution for future space stations and exploration missions.



In parallel, LIQUIFER has been actively supporting **Airbus Defence and Space** through the **design and co-engineering of crew quarters and toilet and hygiene compartments for Starlab**, a next-generation commercial space station in Low Earth Orbit. Since September 2024, LIQUIFER has contributed architectural design expertise and human-centred engineering to optimise habitability, ergonomics, and aesthetic quality in microgravity environments. This work supports Starlab's mission to enable microgravity research, exploration, and space tourism, and helps define future standards for long-duration orbital living.

Together, these achievements highlight LIQUIFER's interdisciplinary expertise and its growing impact on the future of human space habitation.



MaiaSpace, an ArianeGroup subsidiary, is developing the configurable, partially reusable rocket launcher. Its optional Colibri kick stage boosts mission flexibility and enables precise satellite insertion into target orbits.

Łukasiewicz – Institute of Aviation and Thaliana Space supply clustered engines derived from the ESA funded GRACE heritage. Each engine delivers 420 N thrust, uses 98% hydrogen peroxide as oxidizer, and is designed for safety, efficiency, and green propellants. Hot fire testing and vacuum verification at Łukasiewicz–ILOT's new facility will confirm flight readiness.

Mid 2025, MaiaSpace completed a campaign at the Vernon test site, including the first simultaneous firing of two engines — a key maturity step for the multi engine Colibri stage. This milestone is a major advance in international collaboration and a clear signal toward strengthening Europe's launch market independence.



The Moon Village Association is pleased to report the conclusion of International Moon Day 2025, marking our most active year to date. A total of 60 registered events took place across 30 countries, representing a 50 percent increase compared to 2024. Activities ranged from educational workshops to professional panels and exhibitions, demonstrating enthusiasm for lunar exploration.

Building on this momentum, the Moon Village Association has opened a call for proposals to establish new Moon Village Centres. These Centres are envisioned as hubs supporting cooperation, research, education and public engagement in sustainable lunar exploration and utilization. Each Centre will be shaped by the priorities of its host organization, while the Association ensures coordination across the network. Proposals should outline the proposed location, activities, management approach and expected deliverables, with a best effort commitment of at least two years of operation. Submissions are welcome until 31 March 2026. <https://moonvillageassociation.org/call-for-moon-village-centers/>



The Association also convened the 9th Global Moon Village Workshop and Symposium on 3 and 4 December in Turin, Italy, bringing together space agencies, international organizations, industry and academia to advance dialogue on cooperation, governance, sustainability and the emerging lunar economy. Recordings & program can be found at:

<https://moonvillageassociation.org/9th-global-moon-village-workshop-symposium/>



Looking ahead, two flagship events will anchor the Association's 2026 programme. The 10th Global Moon Village Workshop and Symposium will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27 October 2026, hosted by GITSDA. The International Moon Day 2026 Main Event will take place in Bogotá, Colombia, on 20 July.



קיום בתוך יקום
وجود داخل الكون

WITHIN THE UNIVERSE

Rakia, a public benefit corporation, is dedicated to advancing Israel's space ecosystem with a special focus on human space exploration and expanding access to space for all. Building on this vision, Rakia is proud to announce the launch of **Within the Universe**, a new multidisciplinary exhibition in Tel Aviv that brings together art, science and the human experience of spaceflight.

Within the Universe offers a dual perspective: seen from space, Earth is a small, fragile planet enveloped in a thin layer of life; seen from Earth, space is a vast and mysterious expanse. Astronauts who have experienced the Overview Effect, the cognitive shift that arises from viewing Earth from space, often describe how profoundly it sharpened their understanding of the planet's vulnerability and the importance of protecting it. A similar feeling emerges here on Earth when we look upward

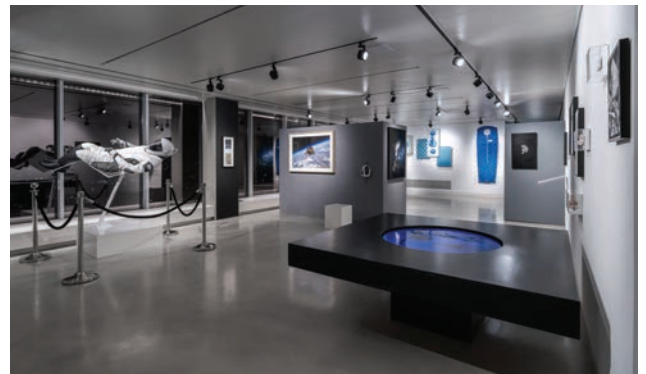
and sense our own smallness in the face of the infinite. These two viewpoints converge in the exhibition, offering a renewed reflection on human existence and our place in the universe.

The artworks on display move between personal and collective memory, myth and tradition, scientific documentation and poetic observation. They reflect ancient and contemporary cultures, observing remnants, seeds and images of both Earth and space. These elements become symbols of impermanence as well as new beginnings, hope and renewal. Together they form a space where past, present and future are woven into one, and where even the fleeting touches the eternal. The exhibition also features items that traveled to space with Israeli astronaut Eytan Stibbe during Ax-1. These objects are thoughtfully integrated into the artworks and curatorial narrative, forming a tangible connection between Earth and orbit and linking human creativity with the experience of viewing our planet from space. Visitors are invited to reflect on our shared responsibility to preserve not only our planet, but also the culture, identity and traditions that have grown from it.

The exhibition features works by Ori Gersht, Ori Tirosh, Ruth Yarmolinsky, Makoto Azuma, Ayelet HaShachar Cohen, Yuval Yairi, Izhar Cohen, Noa Ramon, Gelada Studio, Fatma Abo Freh and Reddish (Naama Steinbock and Idan Friedman). Exhibition design is by Studio Esh-Binimov, with graphic design by Guy Levi.

For further details:

<https://www.rakiamission.com/exhibition-art-page/within-the-universe-en>



Credit: Daniel Hanoch

ReOrbit

ReOrbit Advances Sovereign Satellite Manufacturing with Record Funding and Global Expansion

Finnish space technology manufacturer ReOrbit has secured €45 million in one of Europe's largest Series A funding rounds for the sector, marking a significant milestone in sovereign small GEO satellite development. The investment will accelerate the company's mission to deliver end-to-end connected systems that enable strategic autonomy for nations worldwide.



Building on this momentum, ReOrbit has expanded its international presence with a new office in the United Kingdom. This strategic expansion strengthens the company's ability to serve growing demand for sovereign space capabilities across multiple continents.

The company's rapid growth and innovation have earned recognition from EY, which named ReOrbit Startup of the Year 2025. This acknowledges ReOrbit's technological advancement in satellite manufacturing and its contribution to European space and autonomy.

In a landmark development, ReOrbit has announced a strategic partnership with Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) to establish the first-ever Centre of Excellence for sovereign satellite technology. This collaboration will advance research, development, and knowledge transfer in satellite manufacturing, supporting the next generation of aerospace professionals whilst strengthening Malaysia's position in the space sector.

Founded in 2019 and headquartered in Helsinki, Finland, ReOrbit is a European space technology company that manufactures sovereign satellites and connected systems for national security. Its technologies provide independent control of critical space assets and enable secure communications for both defence and civilian use. Through long-term partnerships and knowledge transfer, ReOrbit ensures its customers achieve and maintain strategic autonomy.



More information: www.reorbit.space

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/reorbit/>



A new routing technique for on-board networks

St. Petersburg State University of Aerospace Instrumentation has taken an important step towards implementing the Seamless Sky concept by developing a methodology for optimal single-path worm network routing and its software implementation. This network technology, characterized by high speed and relatively low cost of equipment, is used in on-board autonomous ground, aircraft and spacecraft systems. The new technique is aimed at solving two problems: the problem of deadlocks - when one

or more data packets are in a state of waiting for resources occupied by other processes, and the problem of choosing one main route for each data flow.

— The task is complicated by the peculiarities of networks that use wormhole routing technology. The buffers of intermediate devices in these networks are small, which means that data packets pass through nodes without intermediate buffering, and if they do not find a free port for further transmission, they have to "wait" until a port becomes available. It takes a huge amount of time which is not reasonable especially in situations where maximum efficiency is required, such as emergency maneuvers for aircraft or ground vehicles," explains Alexander Karandashev, a senior lecturer at SUAI Department of Aerospace Computer and Software Systems.

The developed mathematical model ensures an even distribution of the network load, which indirectly affects the minimization of delay and maximization of throughput and can become the main tool for building configurations of both main and backup auxiliary routes.





This edition will highlight Latin America's growing role in space sustainability and governance, with a focus on how regional leadership and cooperation contribute to global space security and long-term stability in orbit.

Through keynotes, panels, and focused discussions, the program will address:

- Regional perspectives on space governance and international norms
- Space security and stability in an evolving threat and technology environment
- Impacts of space activities on the atmosphere and Earth's environment
- The role of commercial actors in supporting responsible space operations
- How Latin American space initiatives contribute to broader sustainability goals

Participants will engage with leaders from government, industry, academia, and civil society to examine current challenges and explore concrete actions to keep space usable and accessible for all.

Learn more and sign up for updates at swfsummit.org



Join Us in Brasília for the 8th Summit for Space Sustainability

4–5 November 2026 | Museu Nacional da República | Brasília, Brazil

The 8th Summit for Space Sustainability is a high-level international forum focused on advancing practical solutions for the long-term sustainability of space activities. Hosted by the Secure World Foundation (SWF) in partnership with the Brazilian Space Agency, the Summit will take place on 4–5 November 2026 at the Museu Nacional da República in Brasília.



Involving investors interested in the skyrocketing returns from the SpaceLand program, two high-impact gatherings will uniquely bring theory, observation and applied space projects into one calendar: the **2nd International Conference on Gravitation, Astrophysics and Cosmology** in Paris, France, 16 – 18 April 2026, and the **AstroSummit 2026** in Roma, Italy, 22 - 23 June 2026. Both events offer focused technical programs and cross-disciplinary networking for researchers, engineers and industry partners.

In Paris, breakthroughs will be brought together in astrophysics, gravitational physics and cosmology, also exploring dark matter and dark energy, advanced computational methods and mission-driven science. Sessions will blend rigorous theory with observational insight and invite big-picture reflection on how scientific discovery can reshape our understanding of humanity and our place in the cosmos.

In Rome, the summit will showcase observational astronomy, cutting-edge instrumentation, planetary science, microgravity life sciences and space technology, while highlighting the humanitarian promise of space research: how exploration and innovation can improve life on Earth and foster global cooperation.

Together, The SpaceLand events offer a rare mix of deep theory and hands-on innovation, framed by a shared commitment to STEM disciplines that serve people and planet: fresh ideas, new partnerships and the chance to help steer space science toward a more inclusive, forward-looking future. SpaceLand breakthroughs will be dealt with in workshops dwelling on advances in SpaceLand's Mars habitat analogs & low-G training facilities embedded in game-changing "open" aerospace ports featuring microgravity platforms accessible to all and unprecedented low-cost satellite air-launching services.

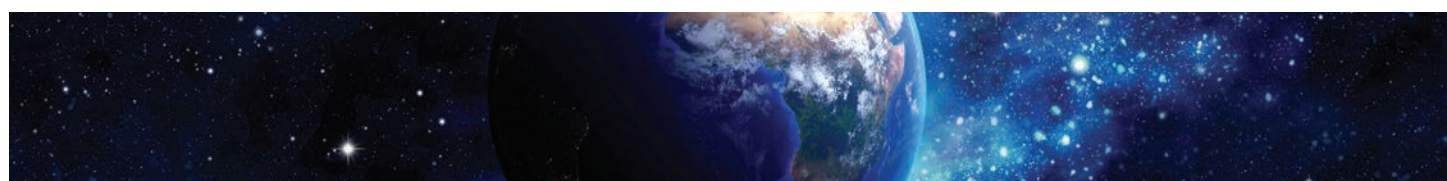
IAF members will receive priority for speaker and exhibitor slots, enabling early visibility and strategic engagement with funders, mission teams and collaborators.

Register early to secure participation and maximize impact:
SpaceLand@SpaceLand.it
www.SpaceLand.it



International Airships Conference - Sustainable Transportation

The second International Airship Conference was awarded by the opening word of State Minister Joachim Herrmann. A great number of experts presented advanced studies. from all continents. Airships- - why we need numeric simulation.? was the thesis of Prof Dr Christoph Pflaum from Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen Nürnberg FAU – one of the top universities worldwide.





Houston, No Problems!

The second cohort of the Executive MBA Space Architecture & Management achieved a perfect liftoff at TU Wien, demonstrating once again how forward-looking executive education in the space sector can be. With great enthusiasm, an international perspective, and an exceptional lineup of speakers, the program launched into a new orbit.

From the very beginning, renowned guest speakers followed one another in quick succession. A particular highlight was the public lecture by former ESA Director General Jan Wörner, who inspired around 350 interested guests with his visionary Moon Village concept. In addition, he held an exclusive workshop for our MBA participants, offering in-depth insights into strategic thinking and international space policy.

During the second module, we were honored to welcome ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher, who spoke about Europe's future in space and the importance of innovation, cooperation, and sustainability in the space sector. Another standout moment was the public lecture by Advenit Makayat, who gave a fascinating account of the first successful 3D printing experiment in orbit. Renowned space architect Xavier De Kestelier captivated the audience with his presentation on space habitats and future living environments beyond Earth.

As an early Christmas gift, not just one but two legendary astronauts joined our masterclass: Franz Viehböck, the first Austrian in space, and Chris Hadfield, former Commander of the International Space Station. They shared their extraordinary first-hand experiences as astronauts and leading thinkers in space exploration, leaving a lasting impression on our students. The third cohort of the program will launch in October 2026. Register now! It's just a small step for you — but a giant leap for your future.

Register here: Space Architecture | TU Wien
<https://www.tuwien.at/en/ace/programs/mba-programs/space-architecture>



TEKNOFEST Highlights: From Space Conferences to Aerospace Competitions

TEKNOFEST continues to strengthen Türkiye's presence on the global stage through its international representation and flagship technology competitions. Competitors supported under the National Teams of Technology Support Program successfully represented Türkiye at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2025), one of the world's most prestigious space conferences, held in Sydney. Innovative projects spanning AI-powered ground control systems, materials science, and solar sail technologies showcased Türkiye's growing expertise in space technologies. Selected from 100 applications, 8 competitors engaged with global academic and industrial communities through their scientific work.

On the competition front, the TEKNOFEST Rocket Competition, first launched in 2018, stands out as the first rocket competition in Europe and the second worldwide. In 2025, the competition received 1,175 applications, with 76 finalist teams and 953 competitors advancing to the finals. Participants aged 14 to 63 represented 30 provinces and 2 countries. The A Group finals were held on 1–7 September 2025 at the Aksaray Hisar Launch Area. The competition offered a total prize pool of ₺5,250,000 and USD 15,000 reinforcing its scale and impact within the global aerospace ecosystem.

Complementing these efforts, the Model Satellite Competition simulates real satellite development processes from design to mission completion. Held across three categories—Multi-Spectral Mechanical Filtering Module, TICOSAT, and Near Space Passenger—the competition attracted over 1,100 participants from 325 teams in 2025. A total of 18 finalist teams from 3 countries and 13 provinces advanced to the final stage. With a total prize pool of ₺2,100,000, the competition continues to play a vital role both in Türkiye and globally in advancing future space technologies and strengthening the aerospace ecosystem.





Universidad de Ciencias y Humanidades Conducts Parabolic Mission to Study the Physiological Effects of Microgravity

On a day filled with excitement and discovery, a UCH team member had the opportunity to participate in a parabolic flight with the company Air Zero G by Novespace, as part of a research project aimed at evaluating variations in vital signs before, during, and after a parabolic flight.

During the experience, the aircraft performed 16 parabolas: 1 parabola to experience Martian gravity, 2 parabolas to experience lunar gravity, and 13 parabolas to experience microgravity, with each parabola providing between 20 and 25 seconds of reduced gravity. In these brief intervals, participants floated like astronauts, experiencing firsthand the sensation of weightlessness. It was remarkable to observe and feel how the human body responds when weight temporarily disappears. It is also important to note that participants experienced 1.8 G during acceleration phases—levels of gravity similar to those astronauts endure during launch into space.

The objective of the study is to quantify changes in physiological

parameters—such as heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, among others—under microgravity conditions, comparing measurements taken before the flight, during the parabolic maneuvers, and throughout the post-flight recovery period. This type of data is essential for understanding the impact that space conditions can have on the human body, which is critical for medium- and long-duration crewed missions.

A Peruvian Milestone:

This flight may represent the first documented Peruvian participation in a parabolic flight for scientific purposes. To date, no official records have been found confirming a similar experience from Peru, although the possibility of verification through national science agencies, space institutions, and historical aerospace archives remains open. What can be confirmed is that it was the first Peruvian to participate in a parabolic flight with Air Zero G by Novespace, according to statements from the company's staff.

Scientific Relevance and Future Opportunities:

The collection of biometric data during microgravity can contribute valuable insights not only to space research but also to terrestrial medical applications, including rehabilitation, human physiology, biomedical technology, and preventive healthcare. Furthermore, this experience may encourage future international collaborations in microgravity flights, the development of experiments in simulated environments, and greater Peruvian participation in the aerospace sector.





INCAS-Lab Promotes Aerospace Research and Science Outreach at UNTELS

The Aerospace Sciences & Health Research Laboratory (INCAS-Lab) at the Universidad Nacional Tecnológica de Lima Sur (UNTELS) has established itself as one of Peru's leading platforms for aerospace education, research, and scientific outreach, despite the country having launched its undergraduate aerospace engineering program only a year ago.

Founded in 2018 and officially recognized in 2023 through an institutional resolution, INCAS-Lab emerged as an academic initiative to channel the growing interest of students and faculty from multiple engineering disciplines—electronics, telecommunications, mechanical, electrical, and systems engineering—toward space-related topics. Since then, the laboratory has achieved a remarkable scientific output, with over 60 Scopus-indexed publications, significantly enhancing the international visibility of Peruvian research.

INCAS-Lab conducts projects across six strategic research lines, including aerospace systems, image and signal processing, artificial intelligence, industrial applications, and engineering applied to medicine and biology. In parallel, the laboratory places strong emphasis on science communication, organizing conferences and workshops and actively participating in major international events such as the International Astronautical Congress (IAC).

A defining feature of INCAS-Lab is its student-centered research model, where undergraduate students actively participate as lead authors in scientific publications, fostering an early research culture at UNTELS. This approach has enabled the laboratory to

contribute approximately 16% of the university's total scientific output in recent years.

Additionally, INCAS-Lab is promoting collaboration agreements with national institutions such as CONIDA and partner universities to expand its capabilities, access funding, and strengthen aerospace research in Peru.

Through these efforts, INCAS-Lab positions itself not only as a research hub but also as a source of inspiration for future generations of Peruvian scientists and engineers, demonstrating that high-level aerospace research is possible from Peru.

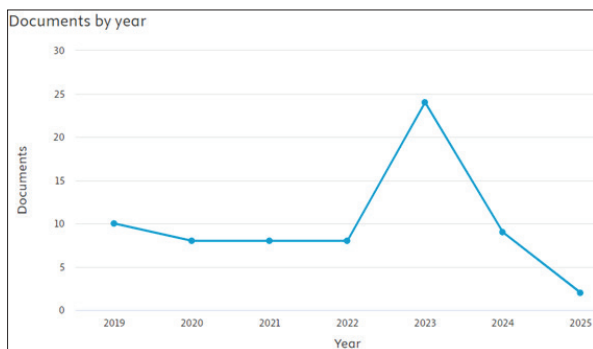


Figure 1

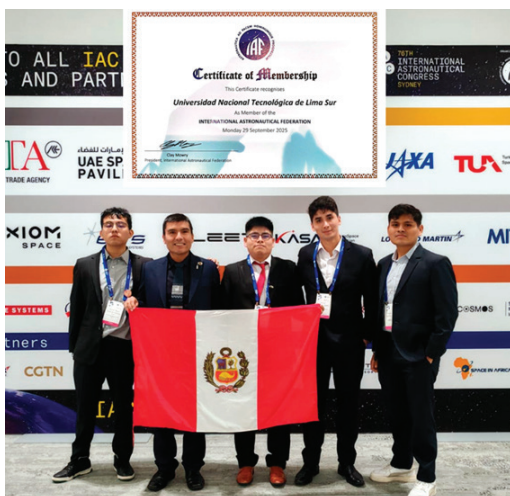


Figure 2

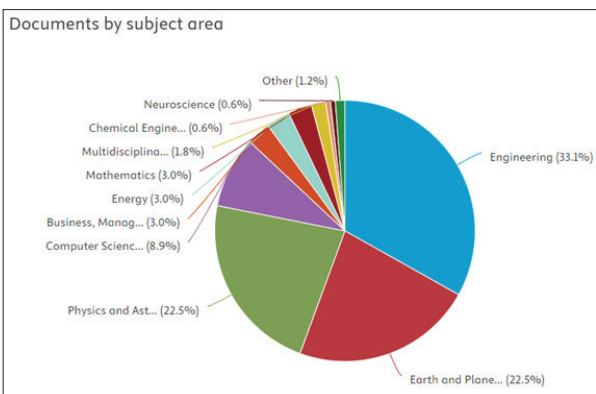


Figure 3

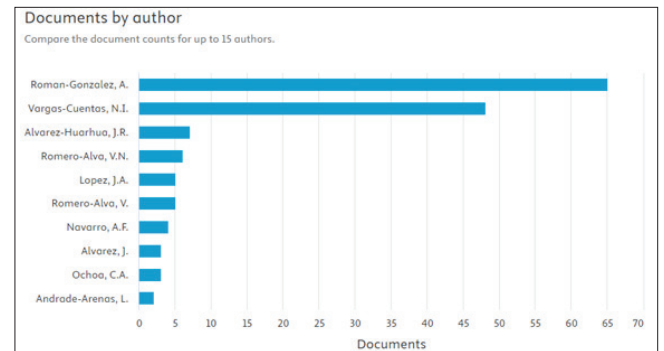


Figure 4

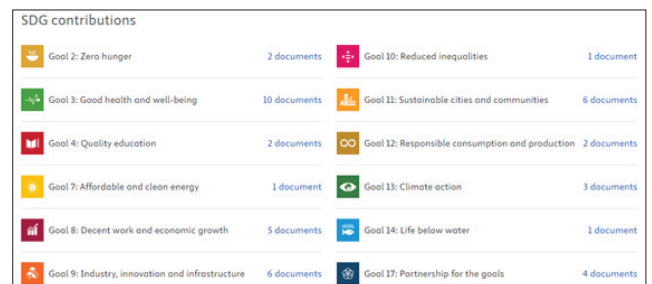


Figure 5



Figure 6





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