



International Astronautical Federation
Young Professionals Programme

News Blast

Connecting @All Space People



APRIL 2025

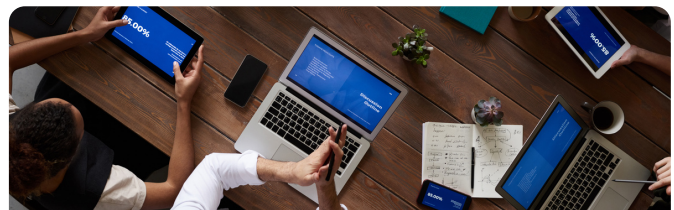
Welcome to the News Blast! We are excited to re-launch our quarterly Young Professional newsletter following the legacy of wonderful former Communications Chair, Balbir Singh. This is your one-stop shop for YP IAF highlights, professional development opportunities, and Committee updates. We welcome your input and feedback as we get this rolling :) Feel free to reach out to our team anytime!

Mariam, Scott, Charles and Darcey
IAF WD-YPP Communications Team

IAF NEWS

Our Federation community is thriving! We now span **81 countries** and count **563 member organizations**. We are excited to welcome **Gabriella Arrigo**, Director of the International Affairs Directorate at the Italian Space Agency (ASI), as the newly elected Incoming IAF President, assuming the presidency in 2026!

Missed IAF highlights from 2024? Catch up by [clicking here](#) to revisit last year's key moments.



SPECIAL SESSION PROPOSALS FOR IAC 2025!

This year, IAF received **110 Special Session proposals**; a testament to our space community's incredible enthusiasm and talent. 2025 is another year of growth, inspiration, and groundbreaking achievements!

IAF EVENTS

	IAF Event	Location	Dates	Website
	IAF Spring Meetings	Paris	25 - 27 March 2025	Click here
	GLEX-25	New Delhi	7 - 9 May 2025	Click here
	UN/IAF Workshop	Sydney	TBD	Click here
	IAC-2025	Sydney	29 September - October 3 2025	Click here

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Institution	Program	Duration	Dates	Website
	5th North and Central American Space Generation Workshop (5th NCAC-SGW)	2 days	22 to 23 May 2025	Click here
	Advanced Studies: New Space Entrepreneurship	2 weeks	26 May - 6 June 2025	Click here
	Space Studies Program (SSP)	8 weeks	30 June -22 August 2025	Click here
	Masters in Space Studies (MSS)	12 - 18 months	September to September	Click here
	SSDW: Space Station Design Workshop 2025	1 Week	23 to 29 August 2025	Click here
	Volunteer at the 76th International Astronautical Congress	2-3 days	1 September 2025	Click here
	SpaceBR Show	2-3 days	June 3 to 5, 2025	Click here
	Executive MBA Space Architecture & Management	18 months	October 16, 2025	Click here
	11th European Conference for AeroSpace Sciences (EUCASS)	2 weeks	June 20 - July 4 2025	Click here
	7th Summit for Space Sustainability	2 days	October 22-23, 2025	Click here

IAF YOUNG PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The **International Astronautical Congress (IAC) 2025** in Sydney is set to deliver an even more inclusive and dynamic platform for sharing cutting-edge research and ideas through the **Global Technical Symposium (GTS)**. This innovative series of sessions, jointly organized by IAF Technical Committees and the Workforce Development-Young Professional Programme Committee, offers an engaging, hybrid experience that connects the global space community like never before!

What Makes Global Technical Symposium (GTS) Unique?

Unlike conventional technical sessions, the GTS sessions will be broadcast online, enabling remote participation for presenters and attendees. Whether joining in-person at IAC or tuning in from home or the workplace, space professionals, young researchers, and students can engage in live discussions, gain insights, and contribute to the global space dialogue—making knowledge exchange more accessible than ever.

Topics Shaping the Future of Space

The Global Technical Sessions at IAC 2025 will cover a diverse range of topics critical to the evolving space sector:

 **GTS.1 - Entrepreneurship Around the World:** Exploring the global landscape of space startups and business innovation.

 **GTS.2 - Human Spaceflight Global Technical Session:** Advancing discussions on the future of human exploration beyond Earth.

 **GTS.3 - Space Communications and Navigation:** Tackling the latest satellite communications and deep-space navigation developments.

 **GTS.4 - Student Team Competition:** Showcasing the brightest young minds tackling space-related challenges.

 **GTS.5 - Small Satellite Missions:** Highlighting breakthroughs in CubeSats, nanosats, and microsatellite technologies.

Join the Conversation!

Don't miss this opportunity to engage with the international space community, share your research, and be part of groundbreaking discussions. Whether you're attending IAC in Sydney or participating remotely, the GTS sessions will bring the latest innovations, ideas, and collaborations directly to you.

Young Professional Events at IAC 2025

Keep an eye out for these free events exclusively focused on Young Professionals at IAC 2025. Stay tuned for details and session schedules, and get ready to be part of the future of space at IAC 2025!

- Next Generation Plenary
- Networking Receptions for Young Professionals
- Global Networking Forum
- YP IPMC Workshop (Sunday, September 28th, 2025)

For program details, visit [here](#). We'll also be sharing more as we get closer to IAC - both through our news blast and social media - [@IAFYPP](#)

MEET AN IAF YOUNG PROFESSIONAL

Tensae Alemayehu Ali

Who are you in 5 hashtags?

#Christian #Curious #Leader #TechSavvy
#SpaceMan



Why space? How did you enter the space sector?

My love for space began with ancient Ge'ez manuscripts, especially AXIMAROS by St. Epiphanius, Bishop of Cyprus. This discovery hit me hard: space isn't just a Western domain. Our African ancestors, pioneers of astronomy, wove the stars into their world—a legacy traced through Sabaeen writings by the Ethiopian

scholar Ahamenes. Exploring these roots unveiled a deep stargazing tradition and astronomy tied to our continent's soul. Since then, space became a bridge, linking ancient insights to today's innovations, tackling global issues, and paving the way for inspiring my fellow Africans on a cosmic future.

That spark drove me to action. I founded a school club to share my comparative research on ancient Ethiopian astronomy, which earned me an invitation to present at the Ethiopian Space Science Society's General Assembly. Hungry for more, I immersed myself in research, determined to pursue engineering. Aerospace engineering wasn't an option in Ethiopia—often limited to military aviation rather than astronautics—so I studied a related field to build the right foundation for a master's in aerospace. My journey took off with the Space Generation Advisory Council, where I progressed from organizing the the 3rd African Space Generation Workshop in 2019, to becoming Ethiopia's National Point of Contact for SGAC all the way to taking part of the Executive Board as the Regional Coordinator for Africa, building networks and leading workshops on space entrepreneurship, space tech and policy.

Fast forward to today, I have been working as a Sales Engineer at CubeSpace Satellite Systems since 2022, translating complex technologies into solutions, securing international contracts, and driving Africa's economic growth through space—blending my roots with a global vision for the cosmos.

Your first contact with the IAF?

My first contact with the IAF was through the IAC that was taking place in Dubai back in 2021.

A significant person you met through the IAF?

Clay Mowry! An incredible #RocketMan from whom I've had the absolute privilege of gaining invaluable wisdom.

**Any experience/
opportunity
(around the IAF)
that changed your
professional career?**

Let me continue my story with Clay.

We first met at the Cultural Night hosted by SGAC during SGC, which takes place a few days before the IAC. At the time, Clay was the VP of

Blue Origin. As he took a seat at our table, he looked at me and said, "I recognize your face—maybe from Twitter!? Glad to meet you!" Right away, he pulled out one of Blue Origin's space-flown feather pins and handed it to me as a gift. I was absolutely starstruck! Fast forward to the end of the congress, and Clay was elected as the incoming IAF President.

A year later, I had the honor of receiving the ESL award, and in 2023, the Young Space Leaders Medal from him—standing alongside incredible figures from the space industry and academia.

Thanks to that opportunity and a simple conversation starter—a feather pin—I landed my current job, built connections across the world, unlocked opportunities I never even knew existed, and continue to propel my career in the industry.



A recommendation to the YPs for the next IAC?

First off, Sydney will be epic! Chris Boshuizen has personally told me so (also another cool person you'll be meeting at the IAC 😊)!

When people say, 'IAC is the biggest space event where industry, academia, and agency players come together,' it's because there's no better way to describe it. In simple terms, it's where the MAGIC happens! Whether you're looking to further your studies, land a job, or even secure investors for your venture, IAC offers limitless possibilities to propel you toward the next, better version of yourself.

Be adequately prepared—have your business cards ready, polish your pitch, and have a clear idea of what you want to gain from the congress. Plan as much as you can—join WhatsApp/Telegram groups, stay informed about side events and evening receptions (there will be plenty, so you may have to choose wisely). But also, leave room for flyby opportunities—because in my experience, those spontaneous, unplanned encounters are where the real game-changing discussions happen!

A life motto/quote you like and/or follow?

Lead today, not tomorrow!

Any final thoughts you want to share?

Space is more than an industry; it's a frontier that connects history, innovation, and limitless possibilities. My journey—from ancient Ge'ez manuscripts to working in the global space sector—has shown me that we are never too small to make an impact. Opportunities exist for those who seek them, and IAC is proof of that. For young professionals, my advice is simple: be bold, be curious, and take that first step. You never know where one conversation, one idea, or one opportunity might lead you. The cosmos is vast—so is your potential!

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