



HOW TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN THE IAC

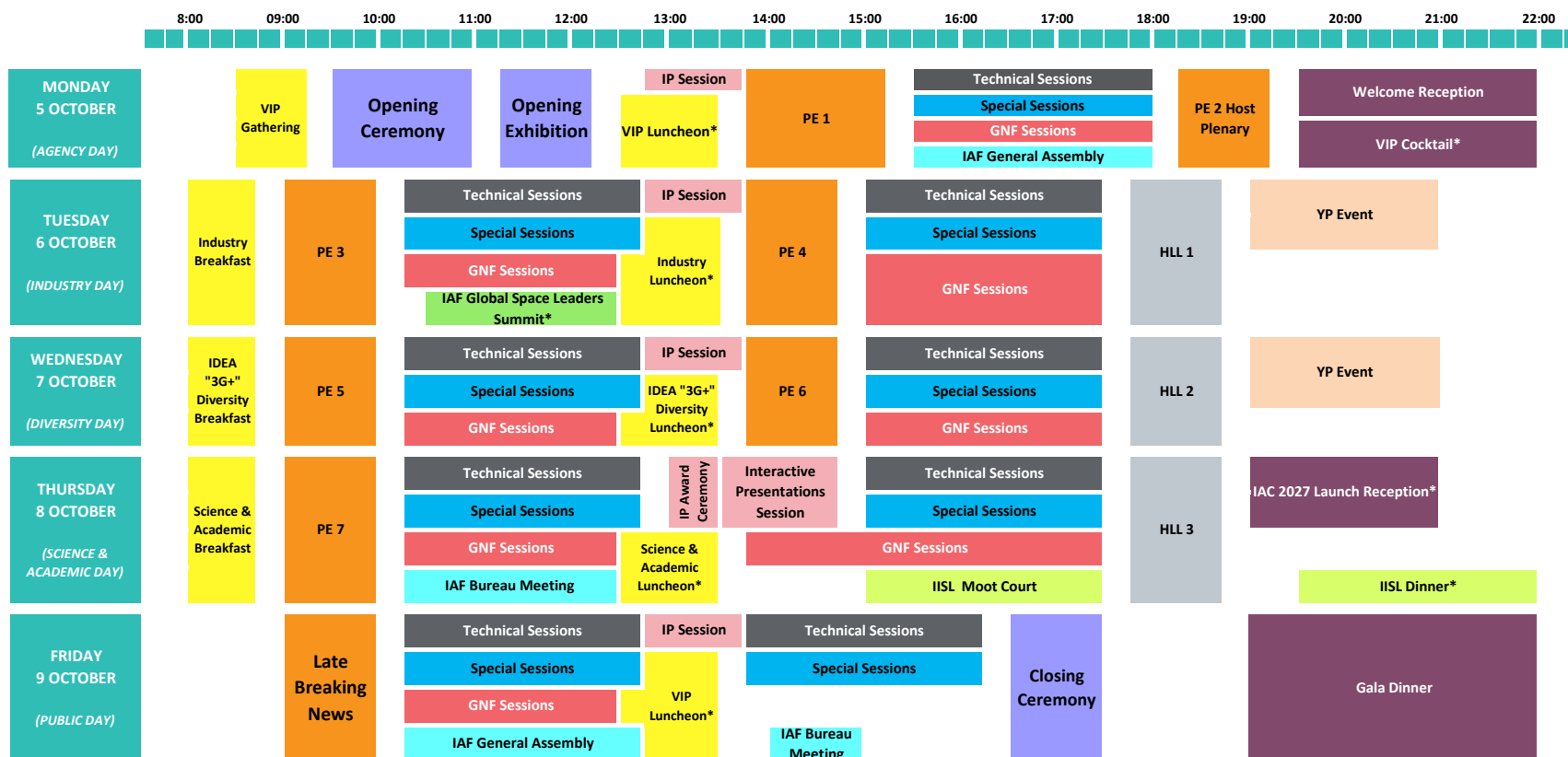


The International Astronautical Congress (IAC) is a five day congress taking place during the September/October timeframe each year in a different location around the world. The upcoming **77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026)** will be held in **Antalya, Türkiye** between **5 - 9 October 2026**.

The IAC is not only a Congress, but a gathering of the international space community that actively contributes to shaping a different and exciting programme every year. There are several different ways that you can actively be part of the congress and this guide will help you better understand which role you and your organization can play at the IAC and the various deadlines to meet. Here below you can find the IAC Congress at a Glance with the general schedule for the main IAC events: Plenaries, IAF Global Networking Forum (GNF) Sessions, Technical Sessions, Special Sessions and the Interactive Presentation (IP) Sessions.

Should you have any questions or any doubts on where your submission would be most suitable within the IAC programme, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the IAF Secretariat at support@iafastro.org

Be Part of the Conversation at IAC 2026!



Connecting @ll Space People

BECOME AN ACTOR AT IAC 2026

PLENARY PROGRAMME

TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

Plenary Events

IAF GNF Sessions

Technical Sessions

Special Sessions



Who can Apply?

IAF Member Organizations
representatives

IAF Member Organizations
and Sponsors

Open to Everyone

Open to Everyone

How to Apply?

Fill in Plenary Application
Form and send to
plenary@iafastro.org

Fill in GNF Application
Form and submit to
gnf@iafastro.org

Fill in online Abstract
Submission Form at
<https://iafastro.directory/>

Fill in online Special Session
Application Form at
<https://iafastro.directory/>

Who Selects?

IPC Steering Group

IAF Vice President for GNF

International Programme
Committee (IPC) led by the
Category Coordinators

IPC Steering Group

When is the Deadline
to Apply?

6 February 2026

24 April 2026

28 February 2026

6 February 2026

*Please note that each proposal shall only be submitted once to either a Plenary, IAF GNF or SpS session.
Proposals that are submitted multiple times will automatically be disqualified.*

PLENARY PROGRAMME

ELEMENTS



Plenary Events

Open to IAF Members only

IAF Global Networking Forum (GNF)

Open to IAF Members, sponsors and newly applying IAF Members

Topic to be of interest to a **large** segment of Congress attendees



300-1000 Delegates

12 Total Slots
7 PEs
2/3 HLLs
1/2 LBNs

Evaluation Criteria:

- Proposed topic (Industry, Exploration, Next Generation, Emerging Countries, Environment, Other)
- Event Format:
 - PEs: 4/7 Speakers and a Moderator
 - HLLs: 1/2 Speakers and a Moderator
 - LBNs: flexible format
- Originality of the proposal, as compared to recent IAC Plenary Events
- Timeliness of the topic with respect to current developments in the space sector
- Relevance of the proposal to the theme of the congress
- Quality and expertise of the proposed presenters
- Ability of the proposers and organizers to obtain the proposed presenters and execute a quality event

More Info [HERE](#)



100-300 Delegates

+/- 20 slots

Evaluation Criteria:

- Topics (Industry, Exploration, Culture, Diversity, Legal and Policy, Development, etc.)
- Event format:
 - panel discussions
 - keynote lectures
 - workshops
 - pitch competitions
 - corporate promotional events
- Relevance of the proposal to the theme of the congress
- Quality and originality of the proposal
- Relevance with regards to the current space sector developments
- Ability of the organizers to obtain the proposed speakers and execute a quality event
- Possibility for the organizer to sponsor the session

More Info [HERE](#)

ELEMENTS



Technical Sessions (TS) & Interactive Presentations (IP)

Open to everyone *(submission and onsite presentation does not apply for delegates who intend to register as press, accompanying persons or exhibitor staff)

Special Sessions (SpS)

Open to everyone *(submission and onsite presentation does not apply for delegates who intend to register as press, accompanying persons or exhibitor staff)

Topic to be of interest to a **targeted** segment of the Congress attendees



50-250 Delegates



50-200 Delegates

TS: +/- 2000 slots
IP: +/- 800 slots

Evaluation Criteria:

- Topics
 - Science and Exploration
 - Applications and Operations
 - Technology
 - Infrastructure
 - Space and Society
- Direct applicability of the abstract submission to astronautics
- Scientific merit, originality and attractiveness of the subject
- Compliance with the word count and format requirements for abstracts
- Event Format:
 - oral presentation of 10-20 minutes
 - interactive presentation of 10 minutes

More Info [HERE](#)

Evaluation Criteria:

+/- 20 slots

- Innovative event format:
 - workshop
 - campfire
 - fishbowl
 - samoan circle
 - design sprint
 - orca bowl challenge
 - open options (**panels will not be considered**)
- Special Sessions shall complement the regular Technical Programme with multidisciplinary topics that highlight current scientific and technical trends in space
- Participatory session focusing on audience engagement
- Quality of contents
- Relevance to the theme of the Congress

More Info [HERE](#)