



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **The 77<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026): Advancing International Cooperation for a Future with More Space!**

**ANTALYA, 9 October 2026** – The global space community gathered in Antalya, Türkiye, for the 77<sup>th</sup> International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026), held from 5 to 9 October 2026 under the theme **“The World Needs More Space”**.

The Congress welcomed **7,604 delegates** from **113 countries**, with Türkiye, the United States, Germany, Italy and China recording the highest participation. **H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** personally inaugurated the Congress, underscoring Türkiye’s commitment to advancing its space sector and strengthening international cooperation across the global space community.



The highlights of the IAC 2026 were the **3<sup>rd</sup> IAF Global Space Leaders Summit**, which brought together 49 heads of space agencies to discuss the lunar economy, orbital resilience and space-based solutions to global challenges, and the **16<sup>th</sup> IAF International Meeting for Ministers and Members of Parliaments (MMoP)**, which welcomed 195 participants from 40 countries, with the presence of 12 ministers and state secretaries, including Minister of Industry and Technology of Türkiye **Mehmet Fatih Kacır**, and 23 Parliamentarians.



The **IAC 2026 Public Day** welcomed more than 4,000 visitors, most of them students under the age of 17, inspiring the next generation to explore the excitement and possibilities of space. One of the Public Day highlights was the opportunity to meet astronauts in person as part of the fifth edition of the **IAF International Astronauts Chapter**, where the IAF brought together more than 30 international astronauts to Antalya.

The IAF General Assembly also selected **Geneva, Switzerland**, as the host city for the International Astronautical Congress in 2029.

The Congress also marked an important milestone in the continued growth of the IAF: **51 new organizations** joined the Federation, bringing its membership to more than **621 organizations across 84 countries**, with Bolivia and the Maldives recently having joined.

At the Closing Ceremony, the IAF flag was ceremonially handed over to the delegation of the European Space Foundation, led by its Founder and President, Łukasz Wilczyński, host of **IAC 2027 in Poznań, Poland**.

As IAC 2026 concluded in Antalya, it left a strong legacy of international dialogue, collaboration and inspiration, while setting the stage for the next gathering of the global space community.

**#IAC2026 #iafastro**

#### About IAC 2026 Organizer



#### International Astronautical Federation (IAF)

Founded in 1951, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) is the world's leading space advocacy body with more than 621 members from 84 countries, including all leading space agencies, industries, research institutions, universities, societies, associations, institutes and museums worldwide.

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

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

<https://www.iafastro.org/>

#### About IAC 2026 Host



#### Turkish Space Agency (TUA)

Turkish Space Agency (TUA) is a state authority responsible for the preparation and the coordination of implementation of the strategic plans including National Space Program, governing the medium- and long-term goals on aeronautics and space technologies, basic



principles and approaches, objectives and priorities, performance indicators as well as the methods to achieve these goals and the distribution of resources.

Turkish Space Agency (TUA) is the sole representative of the Republic of Türkiye globally, regarding all space related issues, as the face of Türkiye in space. Its mission is to be a leading and pioneering institution that carries out activities serving the best interests of our country and humanity in accordance with the requirements of the “New Space Age”.

<https://tua.gov.tr/en>

About IAC 2026 Co-Host



#### SAHA İSTANBUL AEROSPACE CLUSTER

SAHA İstanbul Aerospace Cluster is the largest industrial cluster in Türkiye and Europe, consisting of more than 1300 member companies, 30 universities, and 10 committees. It encompasses nearly all private companies and government agencies involved in aerospace in Türkiye, including the Turkish Space Agency (TUA).

Since its establishment, SAHA İstanbul has represented Türkiye internationally through collaborations and initiatives. It has been recognized as an authorized body of the International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG) via the National Aerospace Industrial Committee (SAHA MİHENK), founded in 2017, which oversees the localization of AS 9100 series certification processes for the aviation industry. SAHA İstanbul is also a member of the European Aerospace Cluster Partnership (EACP), representing Türkiye as a “Bronze” certified member, and is a proud Member of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF).

<https://www.sahaistanbul.org.tr/en>