INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION

News

05/2026 (May 2026)

IAF President's Welcome

Dear IAF Friends,

As we move further into another exciting year for the global space community, I am pleased to welcome you to the May 2026 edition of the IAF Newsletter. This year holds particular significance for the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) as we celebrate its 75th anniversary, a remarkable milestone reflecting decades of com-mitment to advancing space science, technology, and international cooperation.

Following the dynamic and fruitful discussions at the **IAF Spring Meetings** in Paris, we are now fully focused on the organization of two major upcoming events: **77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026)** in Antalya, Türkiye, to be held from 5-9 October, the celebration of the **75th anniversary of the IAF**, planned for 28 November, in Paris, France and next year's **78th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2027)** in Poznań, Poland.

A quick but important update for GLOC 2026 attendees: on behalf of the IAF, and in close contact with our colleagues at the Rwanda Space Agency (RSA), we must share that GLOC 2026 in Kigali, scheduled for 2-4 June, has been postponed until further notice. This was not an easy decision, but participant well-being and health considerations always must lead the way. I know many of you were looking forward to meaningful sessions and in-person collaborations in Rwanda. The IAF remains deeply committed to engaging with our host and stakeholders, and we will communicate new plans as soon as they take form.

Looking ahead to the **77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026)**, to be held from 5–9 October, we are especially encouraged by the remarkable response to the call for abstracts. A record of **8,325 abstracts from 108 countries** have been received, setting a new benchmark for the IAC, and **4,619 abstracts** have been selected in the programme, comprising **4077** accepted and **542** strong back-ups. This exceptional participation underscores the strength, diversity, and global reach of our community

Our upcoming events showcase the energy and dynamism of our Federation, as well as our collective determination to advance space for the benefit of humanity. They also highlight the value of collaboration across borders, disciplines, and generations as we tackle shared challenges and pursue new opportunities.

I extend my sincere thanks to everyone contributing to the success of our events, and I look forward to welcoming many of you in Antalya in the coming months

Gabriella ARRIGO,
IAF President

IN THIS ISSUE

Connecting @ll Space People
for a sustainable future

Spring Meetings 2026

Space For The Planet, Space For People

More than 500 participants gathered in person and joined virtually in Paris from 24 to 26 March for the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) Spring Meetings 2026. Attendees included IAF Bureau members, members of IAF administrative and technical committees, distinguished International Programme Committee (IPC) members, international astronauts, and VIP guests, coming together to chart the path for global space collaboration.

The IAF opened its Spring Meetings 2026 with IDEA Day, a flagship platform dedicated to advancing inclusion across the global space community. The day began with the IAF IDEA "3G+" Diversity Breakfast Panel Discussion, "*The Power of Thinking Differently: Diversity as a Catalyst for Space Breakthroughs,*" uniting experts from academia, industry, and international space agencies. Moderated by IAF VP for Diversity Initiatives and Chair of the IAF IDEA Committee, Nikol Koleva, the discussion highlighted how diversity of thought, experience, and perspective fuels innovation and technological progress. As Koleva noted, "Innovation begins where uniformity ends," reaffirming the Federation's commitment to its "3G+" framework - Geography, Generation, and Gender - as a cornerstone of inclusive advancement. The programme continued with the IAF IDEA "3G+" Diversity Luncheon, featuring welcome remarks by IAF President Gabriella Arrigo and a keynote address, "*The Power of Uncommon Paths,*" delivered by AstroAccess Director of Development Sheila Xu. The session explored how non-linear careers, crossdisciplinary experiences, and diverse perspectives shape leadership and resilience in the space sector.

As part of the IAF Spring Meetings agenda, the IAF International Programme Committee (IPC) convened to review and select abstracts for the upcoming 77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026)

The IAF Global Networking Forum (GNF) kicked off with a forward-looking discussion on the growing importance of dynamic space operations and the need for green, affordable in-space propulsion. Arif Karabeyoğlu, IPC Co-Chair of IAC 2026, highlighted advances by Turkish companies, paving the way for Türkiye's first lunar mission in 2027.

IAF Spring Meetings 2026 Photo Gallery

View the IAF GNF Sessions

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF GLOBAL SPACE COOPERATION

The year 2026 marks a historic milestone for the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) as it proudly celebrates 75 years of championing global space cooperation. Since its inception in 1951 amidst the Cold War, the IAF was driven by a visionary purpose of serving as a platform for dialogue. Through flagship

events like the IAC and its dedicated global committees, the Federation continues to connect governments, industry, and academia worldwide. This exclusive milestone celebration will honor the IAF's enduring legacy of limitless cooperation while charting the future of international space exploration.

As we look back on 75 years of human progress, the celebration will reaffirm our commitment to inspiring the next generation and shaping the future of peaceful space exploration.

THE IAF GLOBAL SPACE CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (GLOC 2026)

The International Astronautical Federation (IAF), in collaboration with the Rwanda Space Agency (RSA), regret to announce the postponement of the IAF Global Space Conference on Climate Change 2026 (GLOC 2026), which was scheduled to take place from 2 to 4 June 2026, in Kigali, Rwanda. A new date for the conference will be communicated in due course.

We sincerely thank the global space community for its understanding, continued support, and commitment to advancing the sector. We look forward to welcoming participants to Kigali at a future date.

For further information, kindly contact:
gloc2026@iafastro.org

77TH INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS (IAC 2026)

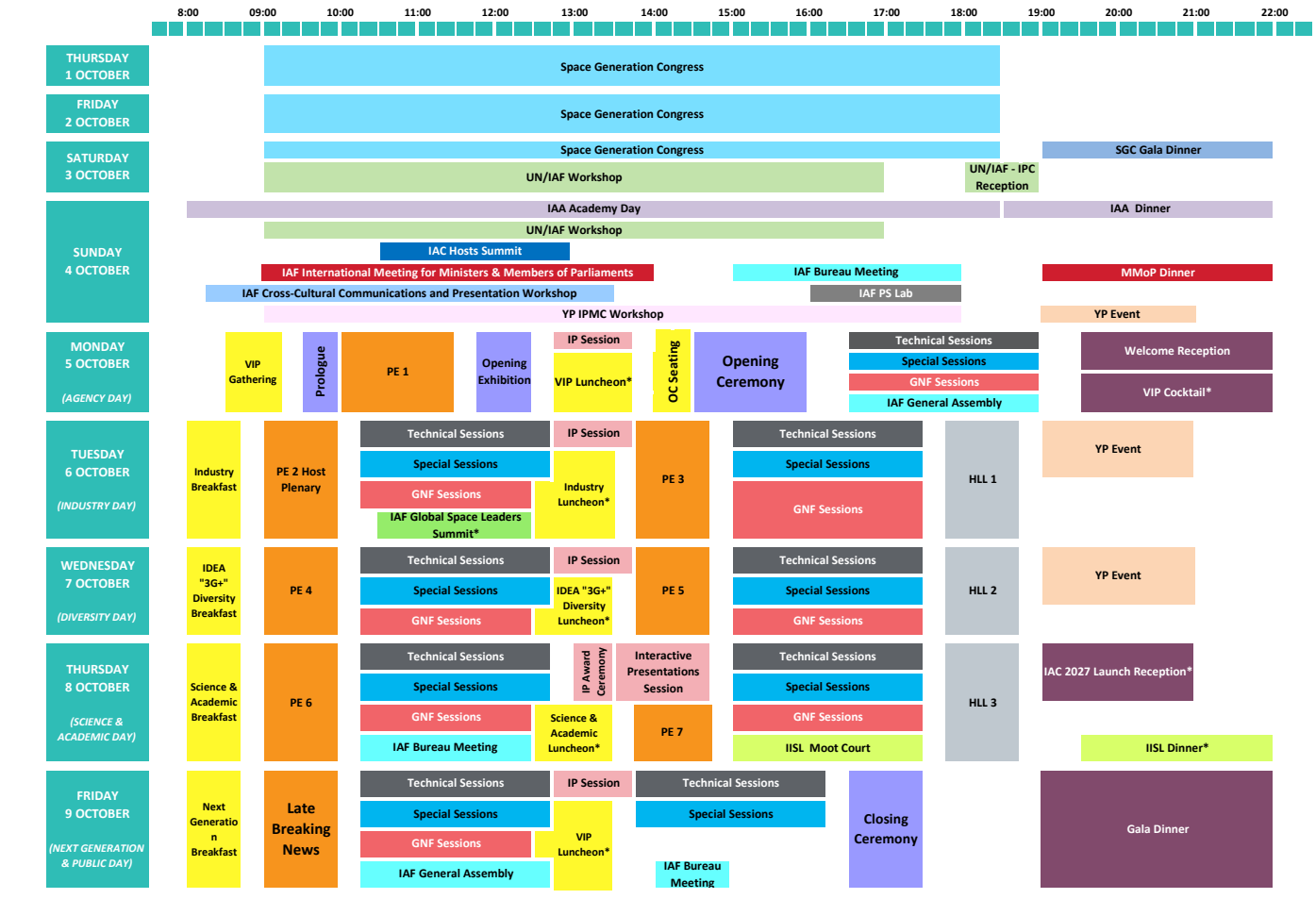
The 77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026) will take place in **Antalya, Türkiye, from 5–9 October 2026** — marking the first time in history that the event will be hosted in Türkiye. Known for its rich cultural heritage, warm hospitality, breathtaking Mediterranean coastline, and vibrant innovation ecosystem, Antalya will offer a unique backdrop to one of the world's most prestigious space gatherings. This year's edition of the IAC is hosted by the Turkish Space Agency (TUA) and co-hosted by the SAHA Istanbul Aerospace Cluster.

The IAC 2026 theme, **The World Needs More Space**, frames a programme inviting visionary ideas, innovative technologies, and pioneering research. In an age where the exploration and utilization of outer space are more crucial than ever, our motto emphasizes the imperative of maintaining a secure, accessible, and collaborative environment in the cosmos.

For more information and to register, please visit the official website: https://www.iac2026.org/

Take advantage of early bird rates by registering now and plan your trip!

IAC 2026 At a Glance



Please Note: *By invitation only; Pre-Congress events as well as the IISL Moot Court are dedicated to the respective participants

IAC 2026 Call for Abstracts Results

Organizer	Title
Cerbone, Laura Antonia	Advancing Diagnostic Imaging in Space: From Ultrasound to Radiography and Beyond
Atasever, Tuva Cihangir	Current State-of-the-Art in Microgravity Research: Most Promising Applications and Pressing Challenges in Advanced Materials and Biotech Manufacturing in Space
Ruiz Vincueria, Fernando	From Demonstrations to Operations: Active Debris Removal from an EU Portfolio Perspective
Pierrettori, Paola	Nuclear Propulsion for Space Missions: Decision Trade-offs and Governance Conditions
Petrillo, Davide	Designing for a Multi-Planet Future: Resilient Mission Architectures for Moon, Mars & Cislunar Operations
Traub, Constantin	Very Low Earth Orbits (VLEO) – Fostering the Growing Community of Interest towards Sustainable Lower Altitude Operations
Bruno, Martina	Securing the Space Commons: AI-Driven Space Traffic Management for a Crowded Orbit
Scimemi, Sam & Foley, Kevin D.	Advancing Human Spaceflight Missions Through Commercial Partnerships
Ribis, Beatrice	Near Space, Real Time: A Live Stratospheric Mission for Public Engagement and Multidisciplinary Insight
Seguin, Guy	Challenges for the Future Development of Hybrid Space Communication Networks
Ataş, Ömer	Human Spaceflight as a Strategic Research Infrastructure for Emerging Space Nations
Nassey, Charlotte	The UN-IRC Space Debates - How far should we go on the Moon? Nuclear Power and the Role of Science in Resource Utilization
Herblet, Angela	Beyond Rations: The Challenge of Dining in Deep Space
Tellett, David	Towards a Metal-Based Circular Space Economy: Improving safety and sustainability in Earth orbit to enable long-term human expansion into space
McKenzie, Duncan	Global Cooperation in an Increasing Regionalised Space Economy
Faraoni, Fabio	Water Propulsion and Beyond: The Role of Water in Empowering a Self-Sustaining Future in Outer Space
Haddaji, Alissa J.	Planetary Defense Model UN: A Space Crisis Simulation
Graf, Jim & Cikanek, Harry A.	From Observation to Decision – Cracking the Last Mile Challenge

The selection results are in, and this year's Call for Abstracts marks an extraordinary milestone for the **77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026)** to be held on 5-9 October in Antalya, Türkiye.

An astounding **8325 abstracts** poured in from 108 countries, an all-time record both in **numbers and in geographic reach in IAC history.** After thoughtful review by the International Programme Committee (IPC) at the IAF Spring Meetings last march, **4619 abstracts have been selected for IAC 2026**, comprising 4077 accepted and 542 strong back-ups - representing a **highly competitive acceptance rate of 55.45%**, only testifying to the growing selectiveness and vigor behind each year's monumental gathering.

All accepted presenters have been matched across a record-breaking 204 technical sessions, plus daily large-scale Interactive Presentations Sessions. Dive deeper into the stage: over 61% of selected presentations will be featured in the Oral format, with 38% to be delivered as Interactive Presentations.

The Call for Special Sessions received 74 submissions, out of which selected **18 outstanding concepts** have been chosen from a highly competitive pool to shape the **Special Sessions track at the IAC 2026 Technical Programme**.

Submission for the 77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026) to be held on 5-9 October in Antalya, Türkiye.

It is your window - only two weeks - to shout about your most exciting recent breakthroughs and present your LBA as an Interactive Presentation (IP) at IAC 2026!

Submission Window: 27 May – 10 June 2026 (23:59 CEST)

Submission Platform: https://iafastro.directory/iac/account/login/

IAC 2026 Plenary Programme

The IAC 2026 Programme will feature Plenaries, Highlight Lectures, and Late Breaking News Sessions, all offering high-level speakers the opportunity to present and discuss the latest trends and insights in space research, technology, exploration, and beyond. We are pleased to unveil the selected sessions:

Category	Plenaries
Heads of Agencies	One-to-One with Heads of Agencies
Host Plenary	Bridging Eras: From Silk Road Astronomy to Lunar Exploration
Industry	Geopolitics vs. Innovation: Balancing Corporate Flexibility and Sovereign Capability in a Volatile World
Exploration	Cis-Lunar Architecture in Practice: Lessons and Leadership from Japan; Cis-Lunar Space at a Crossroads: Navigating Security Dynamics and International Partnership
Environment	Orbital Oversaturation: The Post-LEO Reality
Emerging Space Country	Intercontinental View of Space Governance from Regional Space Organizations
Next Generation	Next Generation Space Infrastructure: Building the Orbital Backbone for a Space-Faring Economy

Category	Highlight Lectures
Industry	Sustainability and Safety of Large Satellite Constellations from the Starlink Perspective Looking Forward
Exploration	Pioneering Organ-Chip Research in Space to Advance Precision Health
Award	IAF World Space Award Highlight Lecture

IAC 2026 Technical Tours

Make the most of your IAC 2026 in Antalya:

- Daily Tours during the week of IAC 2026: https://iac2026.org/daily-tours
- Post Congress Tours: https://iac2026.org/post-congress-tour

33rd UN/IAF Workshop

The International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) are pleased to announce the opening of the Call for Abstracts for the 33rd UN/IAF Workshop, taking place on 3–4 October 2026 in Antalya, Türkiye, in conjunction with the 77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026).

Co-organized annually by the IAF and UNOOSA, the UN/IAF Workshop series has become a long-standing global platform fostering international cooperation, capacity-building, and knowledge exchange in the peaceful uses of outer space.

For more information, please visit the website

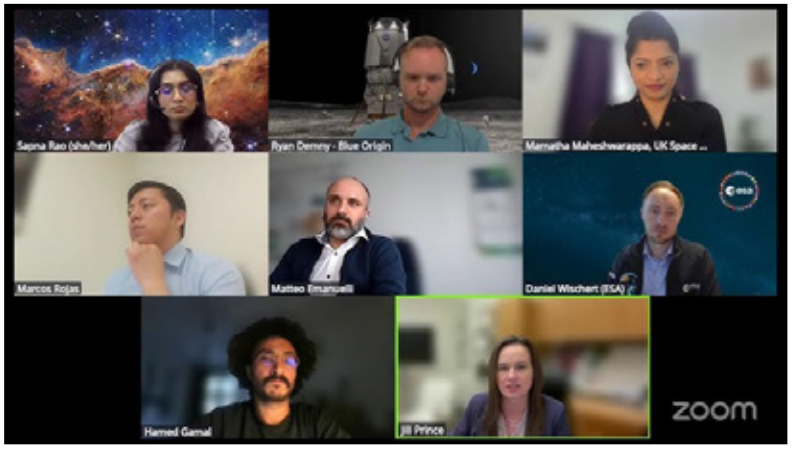
The 2026 edition, hosted by the Turkish Space Agency (TUA), will focus on the theme:
"Space Economy Opportunities for Emerging Nations: Advancing Socio-Economic Resilience through Space Technologies and Applications"

Submit your abstract by 30 June 2026!

For additional information on the Workshop programme, please contact UNOOSA at unoosa-events@un.org and IAF at workshop@iafastro.org.

THE IAF TECHNICAL COMMITTEES WEBINAR SERIES

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 sources of knowledge that shape the discussion of the yearly IAF events. This initiative is 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**.



Stay updated with the latest trends in the space domain with the IAF Technical Committees Webinar Series organized by the IAF Workforce Development/Young Professionals Programme (WD/YPP) Committee.

IAF LOGBOOK 2026

Expanding Our Global Space Initiatives

The journey continues with the IAF Logbook 2026. Moving into the year, the IAF is fully engaged in key industry events to champion and support the global space community. The 2026 Logbook will dynamically capture these milestones throughout the year, showcasing the meaningful results of our shared efforts.

The IAF kicked off its 2026 strategic outreach as a key partner at The 18th European Space Conference (ESC) in Brussels from January 27–28. Centered on the theme "*Delivering on Europe's Space Ambition: Sovereignty, Security, and Industrial Transformation*," the Federation maintained an active and highly visible presence, setting a strong momentum for the year ahead.

Building on this engagement, the Federation took the floor at the 63rd Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) of the UN COPUOS. There, the IAF reiterated its unwavering support for the United Nations by bridging the gap between the global space community and policymakers, while actively advocating for space science and technology as drivers of sustainable development.

The International Astronautical Federation (IAF) had a strong presence at the 2026 Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, demonstrating its commitment to fostering global space collaboration and supporting the next generation of space leaders. During the IAF Salon Breakfast under the inspiring theme "Connecting Nations: the IAF's Role in Global Space Cooperation", Maj. Gen. Heather Pringle, CEO of the Space Foundation, and Yusuf Kirac, President of the Turkish Space Agency and IAF VP for Relations with International Organizations joined the IAF President Gabriella Arrigo and Dr. Feichtinger to discuss the upcoming IAF Global Space Conference on Climate Change (GLOC 2026) and the 77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026). The conversation emphasized the importance of international collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the value of fostering dialogue across space sector.

This momentum carried forward to the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF 2026), held under the banner "*Mapping Tomorrow, Managing Uncertainties*." The Forum gathered world leaders, diplomats, and industry pioneers to translate global foresight into concrete cooperation. For the IAF, the ADF not only served as a premier platform to address emerging global trends but also provided a vital opportunity to drive high-level engagement and preparations for the upcoming 77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026), taking place in Antalya from 5-9 October 2026.

Discover Q1 & Q2 of the IAF Logbook 2026

IAF MEMBERS' NEWS!

The **American Astronautical Society** (AAS) is pleased to share recent milestones that reflect our commitment to advancing the global space community.

In March, AAS hosted the AAS Goddard Space Science Symposium in Washington, D.C., bringing together leaders from government, industry, and academia, exploring this year's theme, Advancing an Integrated Space Enterprise. The symposium also commemorated the 100th anniversary of the world's first liquid-fueled rocket launch by Robert H. Goddard, highlighting a century of progress in space science and technology.

The event featured keynote insights from Chris Scolese, Director, National Reconnaissance Office; Nicky Fox, Associate Administrator, NASA Science Mission Directorate; and Mark Clampin, Acting Deputy Administrator, NASA Science Mission Directorate. Their perspectives enriched discussions on current challenges and future opportunities shaping the field. For photos and videos of the event, visit astronautical.org/goddard.

Also in March, at the IAF Spring Meetings, AAS was honored as a Diversity Supporter, reflecting our commitment to engaging and encouraging a wide spectrum of individuals to pursue and develop careers in the space industry. AAS Past President Frank Slazer accepted the recognition.

Looking ahead, AAS is preparing for the annual AAS Student CanSat Competition next month, continuing our mission to foster collaboration, hands-on learning, and innovation among the next generation of space professionals. We invite members and partners to stay engaged as we build on this momentum throughout the year.

The **Brazilian Space Agency** (AEB) continues to expand Brazil's footprint in the global space arena through strategic infrastructure and high-level international dialogue. Recently, AEB signed a pivotal agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Centre National d'Etudes

Spatiales (CNES) and the Federal University of Tocantins (UFT) to implement the Amazon Region Balloon Operations Center. This initiative is a cornerstone for the Brazilian Space Program (PEB), enhancing national autonomy in peaceful space technologies and driving innovation with direct socio-economic impacts.

Strengthening regional ties, Brazil will host the XI International Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Space Network (ReLaCa 2026) and the VI Latin American Round of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, for the first time. To be hosted in Brasília on May 20–22, 2026, the event will gather representatives from academia, government, industry, and other strategic stakeholders to discuss space law, governance, and human resource development, with the aim of building a unified agenda to strengthen and amplify initiatives in the sector For more, information: https://relaca2026.aeb.gov.br/

Furthermore, in a historic milestone, AEB and the Secure World Foundation will co-host the 8th Summit for Space Sustainability in Brasília on November 4–5, 2026. This represents the first time the summit is held in the Southern Hemisphere. Structured around five thematic axes (Align, Benefit, Cooperate, Design, and Explore) the forum will address inclusive governance and practical solutions to ensure space remains a secure and sustainable domain for future generations. Through these initiatives, AEB reaffirms its commitment to leveraging space technology for societal well-being and international cooperation.

AIP

AIP Opens Access to Oppenheimer's Historic Interviews

Hear Oppenheimer in his own words through AIP's Niels Bohr Library & Archives.

For six decades, AIP has preserved three oral history interviews with J. Robert Oppenheimer.

However, until now, these interviews were available only on a case-by-case basis, with individual researchers needing to request permission for access and use. That process limited their discoverability and reach.

Through a shared commitment to research, education, and access, AIP and the Oppenheimer family have opened access to these invaluable unique historical sources for public research and noncommercial use. You can now access all three interviews:

The first interview, recorded in 1960 by Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Cahn, was for an article in the Saturday Evening Post titled "Behind the First A-Bomb" featured Oppenheimer's personal background and views leading up to and after the Trinity test.

The second oral history, recorded in November 1963, was conducted with historian and philosopher Thomas S. Kuhn as part of the Archives for the History of Quantum Physics project .

The final oral history, recorded in November 1966, focuses on Enrico Fermi's contributions to the physics community and Oppenheimer's reflections on the physics community of his time. This interview was recorded by science historian Charles Weiner.

Explore these recordings, transcripts, and photos and learn more about Oppenheimer's influence on modern science below. View AIP's Fireside Chat: J. Robert Oppenheimer: Behind the Scenes event video that reflects on Oppenheimer's legacy.

SCAN ME

ANYWAVES

SPACE ANTENNA MAKERS

Anywaves Joins the IAF Community

At the International Astronautical Congress 2025 in Sydney, Anywaves joined the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), marking a new step in our global engagement. We thank our fellow members for the warm welcome into the IAF community.

Anywaves: a global space electronics powerhouse

Anywaves is a European space electronics company delivering integrated payload subsystems for satellites. The company combines advanced antenna systems with software-defined radios, RF payload electronics, and onboard computing to provide flexible, high-performance solutions for institutional and commercial missions. With teams across France, Luxembourg, and the United States, Anywaves supports customers worldwide with reliable, ready-to-integrate technologies.

A natural step in a global journey

Joining the IAF reflects Anywaves' role in the international space community. As the company expands globally, our IAF membership will enhance visibility, foster collaboration, and reinforce our responsibility as a commercial space SME, but also the sector as a whole. Through the IAF, Anywaves aims to support the industry's narrative and positioning.

Already engaged and contributing

Anywaves builds on existing involvement: employees have been contributing technical papers and participate in congress activities. Our CMO serves as Chair of the IAF Space Education and Outreach Committee (SEOC). Of course, we now also participate in the IAF General Assembly, exhibit at IAC events, and we were pleased to take part in the recent IAF Spring Meetings in Paris, contributing to preparations for the upcoming IAC in Türkiye.

Anywaves looks forward to connecting with fellow members at upcoming IAF events. We invite all members to engage with our team as we contribute to a strong, global space ecosystem. Meet us at www.anywaves.com and of course at the IAC!

Astroengineering Technologies LLC: Advancing Near Space Industrialization

In 2025, Astroengineering Technologies LLC continued promoting scientific dialogue and international cooperation in the emerging field of near space industrialization. A major milestone for our organization was becoming a member of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). We are proud to join this globally respected community that brings together leading space agencies, research institutions, and industry representatives working to shape the future of space exploration and utilization. Membership in the Federation provides valuable opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange, and we look forward to contributing to the shared mission of advancing the peaceful development of outer space.

During the year, representatives of Astroengineering Technologies LLC participated in several major international space events. Our specialists presented research at the International Astronautical Congress 2025 in Australia, focusing on technological and industrial prospects of near space. In addition, the company's founder and Chief Designer, Anatoli Unitsky, personally participated in the The Americas Space Forum in Washington, D.C., contributing to international dialogue and exchanging views with experts from across the global space community.

Another important achievement of 2025 was the presentation of the scientific proceedings of the *Proceedings of the VIII Global Conference on Near Space Industrialization*. This annual international conference, held for many years in the Republic of Belarus, provides a platform for scientists, engineers, and researchers to discuss space exploration, the development of advanced technologies, and the formation of the future space industry. The electronic version of the proceedings is available at: https://uspaceprogram.com/library.

Looking ahead, in May 2026 we plan to present a new scientific volume titled "*Non-Rocket Near Space Industrialization: Problems, Ideas, Projects*." Our team also intends to contribute to the International Astronautical Congress 2026 in Antalya and to organize the IX Global Conference on Near Space Industrialization, continuing to foster international scientific dialogue and cooperation.

AXIOM SPACE

Axiom Space wins Fifth Human Spaceflight Mission to the Space Station

Axiom Space, a leading human space exploration company, won its fifth private astronaut mission (PAM) to the International Space Station. The NASA-awarded mission is the company's fifth consecutive PAM. Axiom Mission 5 (Ax-5) is targeted to launch in 2027 from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida and is expected to spend up to 14 days docked to the space station.

All four previous missions have expanded the global community of space explorers, diversifying scientific investigations in microgravity, and providing significant insight that is benefiting the development of the successor the ISS, Axiom Station. Axiom Space is redefining access to space for the benefit of all.

Advancing Human Exploration

Axiom Space is building a next-generation spacesuit – the Axiom Extravehicular Mobility Unit (AxEMU) for NASA's Artemis IV mission, returning humanity back to the lunar surface for the first time in more than 50 years.

The suit's single-architecture design is engineered to explore the lunar south pole and conduct spacewalks in low-Earth orbit (LEO). Its innovative design provides increased mobility, safety, and accommodates a wide array of humans.

The Axiom Space team has completed numerous tests of the AxEMU, including the first uncrewed thermal vacuum test of the pressure garment assembly; accumulated over 950 hours of crewed pressurized time; and delivered hundreds of critical design review products for the Artemis mission. The AxEMU will complete another milestone - the critical design review - this year.

The AxEMU will be ready to meet the challenges of the lunar south pole, enabling the foundation for a future settlement on the Moon.

Pioneering Human Settlements

Axiom Space is a human space exploration company, building era-defining space infrastructure and delivering technology-driven solutions that will empower civilization to transcend Earth. Beginning with Axiom Station, successor to the International Space Station, a commercial space station that will enable human space exploration post-ISS – from manufacturing and research proliferation to testing systems for long-term lunar presence and Mars missions – without a gap in operations.

Progress continues on the first two modules of Axiom Station at Thales Alenia Space in Italy. The first module is planned to launch in 2028.

Azercosmos: 15 Years of Building a Space Ecosystem and Expanding Global Partnerships

This year, Azercosmos marks its 15th anniversary, a milestone that reflects its growing role in shaping regional and global connectivity, as well as contributing to the development of space ecosystem of Azerbaijan.

For 15 years, Azercosmos has been building a national space ecosystem, strengthening technological sovereignty, and expanding international cooperation. It has positioned Azerbaijan on the global space map, empowered the next generation of professionals, and actively advanced space diplomacy.

Today, Azercosmos delivers services to more than 100 million households across over 40 countries. Beyond satellite communications, the company is expanding its capabilities in Earth Observation and geospatial solutions, including GIS-based applications, supporting data-driven decision-making in areas such as environmental monitoring, agriculture, and urban development.

As the global space and telecommunications landscape shifts from traditional broadcasting to data-driven connectivity, Azercosmos continues to evolve, with a strong focus on next-generation satellite-enabled broadband, mobility solutions, and integrated AI-driven digital solutions.

At the same time, the company plays an active role in strengthening international partnerships and fostering collaboration across regions.

Beyond infrastructure, it invests in human capital through initiatives such as the SPACE Academy, contributing to knowledge exchange and the growth of a sustainable, innovation-driven space sector. The recent launch of a PocketQube satellite dedicated to Azerbaijan's Victory, designed by school students, further reflects the country's technological ambition and commitment to the next generation.

Positioned at the intersection of Europe, Asia, and Africa, Azercosmos acts as a strategic bridge by connecting markets, strengthening cooperation, and contributing to a more resilient and interconnected global space economy.

وكـــالة البحرين للفضـاء
BAHRAIN SPACE AGENCY

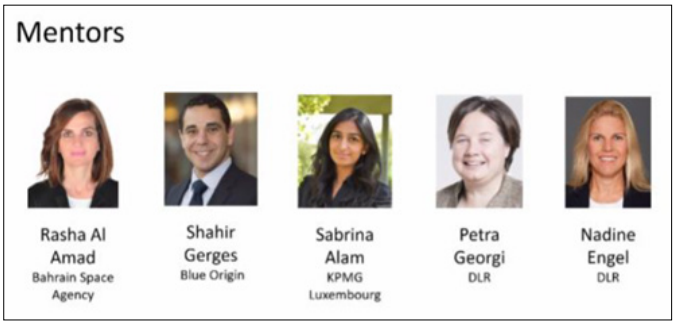
Bahrain Space Agency's (BSA) AlMunther satellite captured its first image of the Kingdom of Bahrain. His Highness Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa presented His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa with the first complete satellite image of the Kingdom captured by AlMunther as a commemorative gift.

The BSA participated in the Space Conference held on the sidelines of the Dubai Airshow 2025, themed "The Future Starts Here". The agency held several bilateral meetings with representatives from various space agencies participating in the event.

BSA's Eng. Yaqoob Al-Qassab elected chairman of UNOOSA's Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for 2027 during the STSC 2026 Meetings held in Vienna.

BSA participated in the Global New Space Forum held in Seoul as an official speaker in the third session dedicated to discussing "Building an integrated global system for satellites and space infrastructure".

Additionally, Rasha Alamad, BSA's Chief of Strategic Planning and Projects, was chosen as a mentor for the Young Leaders Development Program for IAC 2026.



BSA's CEO, Dr. Mohammed Al-Aseeri, participated in the Space Debris Conference 2026 held in Riyadh, the Middle East Space Conference 2026 held in Oman, and the Arab Space Cooperation Group Meeting for 2026.

BSA also participated in the first International Conference on Data Science and Geographic Information Systems (ICDSG 2025) with a research paper titled: "Monitoring Urban Water Infrastructure by Satellite: Using SAR Imagery to Monitor and Detect Potential Pipeline Leaks," in collaboration with the Electricity and Water Authority of Bahrain.

Chongqing University's Space Experiment Achieves Milestone: Butterfly Successfully Emerges and Flutters in Orbit

On February 2, 2026, Researchers at China's Chongqing University announced that a butterfly has successfully emerged from its pupa while orbiting Earth, yielding valuable data on biological survival in the harsh microgravity environment of space.

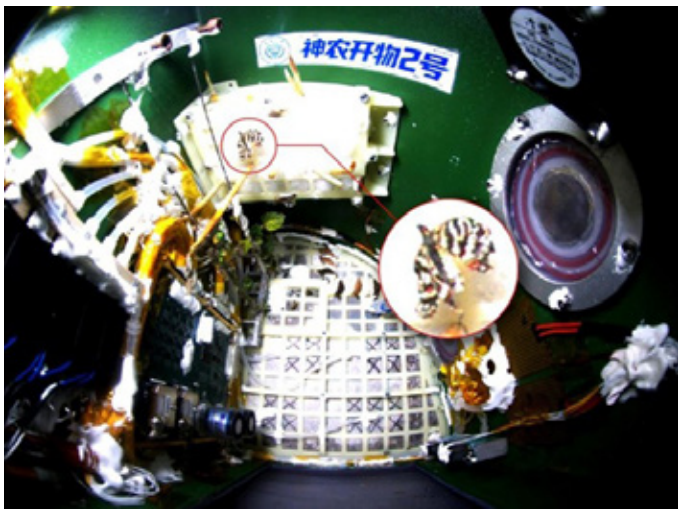


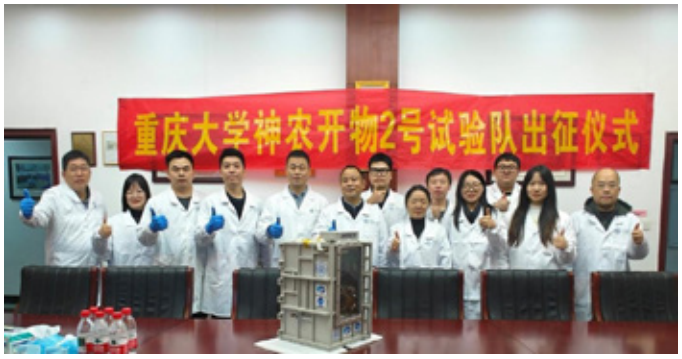
Photo taken by Chen Cheng of Xinhua News.

The researchers displayed the butterfly (Citrus butterfly) specimen at a small press conference held at Chongqing University.

The photos transmitted from the orbit show the butterfly after emerging from its chrysalis.

The butterfly chrysalis was sealed inside a small experimental space ecosystem payload developed by the university's research team and carried into space aboard the Kuaizhou-11 Y8 carrier rocket on December 13, 2025

On November 28, 2025, the research team of Chongqing University's "Shennong Kaiwu 2" held a departure ceremony.



Photos taken in space show the emerged butterfly moving inside the capsule, resting on leaves and fluttering its wings, demonstrating notable adaptation to the microgravity environment. Data transmitted to the research team confirmed stable pressure, temperature and humidity levels inside the payload's sealed cabin till then. In the microgravity environment, the altered behavior of fluids and the hindered transport of materials pose significant challenges to the stable operation of a healthy, miniature, closed-loop ecosystem. Having overcome the technical bottleneck of magnesium alloy oxidation in high-humidity conditions, the team developed a lightweight yet robust payload structure that weighs just 8.3 kg, forming a safety barrier for the small ecosystem, said XIE Gengxin, the payload's chief designer.

Its design mimics the ecological cycles of Earth, creating a functional miniature ecosystem prototype. This self-sustaining, unmanned system includes plants such as chile pepper, which generate oxygen and potential food for the butterfly, while microorganisms process waste to maintain a stable air composition. "The successful emergence of the butterfly is not just about having an insect in space; it marks a solid step forward in verifying the feasibility of long-term operation of complex life support systems in orbit," he said.

He noted that the completion of the butterfly's key life process in an extreme environment tests the resilience of terrestrial life and provides valuable insights for future deep-space life support technologies.

On February 2, Professor XIE Gengxin displayed the butterfly (Citrus butterfly) specimen at Center of Space Exploration, Chongqing University.

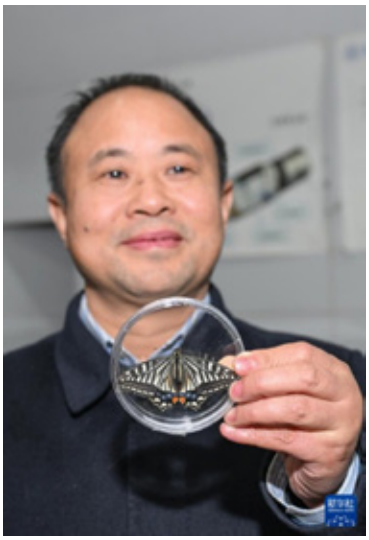
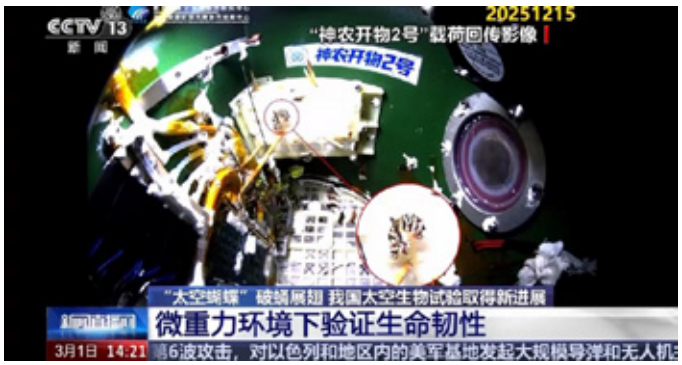


Photo taken by Chen Cheng of Xinhua News

In its next step, the research team plans to focus on the in-orbit verification of the structure's endurance, the adaptability of its components to the space environment, and the long-term sealing capability of the payload's sealed cabin.

More details, please click:
http://www.cose.edu.cn/info/1038/2299.htm
https://news.cctv.com/2026/02/03/ARTIsLDHKdreKLZcbsyUSXZZ260203.shtml
https://tv.cctv.com/2026/03/01/VIDEQVnNRu278LjTZZv4KICO260301.shtml
https://tv.cctv.com/2026/03/02/VIDE78vekhiZtWItxXpUatQx260302.shtml?spm=C53156045404.P4HrRJ64VBfu.0.0



On March 1 2026, CCTV 13- Live News reported the related outcome.

On March 2 2026, CCTV 13 - Morning News reported the related outcome.

D-Orbit Selected by ESA as Prime Contractor for MORPH, an On-Orbit Satellite Refurbishment Mission

D-Orbit, a global leader in space logistics and orbital transportation, has been selected by the European Space Agency (ESA) as prime contractor for MORPH (Modular On-Orbit Refurbishment for Permanent Hardware), a mission concept that could become Europe's first mission architecture capable of demonstrating satellite refurbishment directly in orbit. The initiative represents a key step toward a circular space economy, where satellites can be repaired, upgraded, and reused instead of replaced.

"With MORPH, we are exploring a model in which satellites become long-lived infrastructure that can be repaired and adapted directly in orbit," said Diego Garcés de Marcilla, Director of the In Orbit Servicing Business Unit.

Building on a completed Phase 0 study, the project has now progressed to Phase A. MORPH expands on the heritage of RISE, D-Orbit's in-orbit servicing mission launching in 2029, moving from life-extension services toward a broader refurbishment architecture, including future upgrades such as refueling or in-orbit assembly.

During the eight-month Phase A study, D-Orbit and its partners will develop a validated mission concept, including system architecture, operational scenario, and develop a roadmap for critical technologies, with the objective of reaching TRL6 maturity ahead of a future demonstration mission. By enabling satellites to be repaired or reconfigured in orbit, MORPH could reduce the need for replacement spacecraft while ensuring service continuity, supporting ESA's ambition for a debris-neutral space sector and a circular economy by 2040.

Satellite development begins for EUMETSAT Polar System – Sterna

EUMETSAT took a major step forward in developing its EUMETSAT Polar System – Sterna (EPS-Sterna) programme with the signature in March 2026 of a satellite production contract between OHB Sweden and the European Space Agency.

EPS-Sterna, an innovative "New Space" constellation of 20 micro-satellites, will complement EUMETSAT's existing fleet of geostationary and polar-orbiting satellites and strengthen space-based observations for weather forecasting and climate monitoring. Each satellite will carry identical advanced microwave sounders but operate in different orbital planes, providing near-global coverage in less than five hours. It will improve microwave sounding coverage globally and help close important observation gaps in the Arctic, which is the fastest-heating region on Earth and where many weather systems affecting Europe originate or intensify.

The first six satellites are expected to be launched in 2029, and, over the course of the mission's planned 13-year lifetime, EPS-Sterna data are projected to generate more than €30 billion in value for Europe, with a benefit–cost ratio of up to 51:1, helping national weather services improve forecasts and enabling decisions that protect lives, infrastructure and economic activity. Under the terms of the programme, the EPS-Sterna satellites will be procured by ESA on behalf of EUMETSAT, with OHB Sweden serving as prime contractor for the space segment. EUMETSAT, as the system authority, will also develop the ground segment, procure and provide the launch services, operate the satellites, manage the constellation and distribute the data through its data distribution mechanisms, including EUMETCast and EUMETView. The programme is fully funded by EUMETSAT's 30 member states.

Artist's view of EUMETSAT Polar System – Sterna. Credit: ESA

EUROPEAN SPACE FOUNDATION

The 78th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2027) - Poznań, Poland

IAC 2027, organized by the International Astronautical Federation and hosted by the European Space Foundation together with MTP Group and The Way, will take place in Poznań, Poland.

The theme "One Space. Shared Future" highlights the event's central message: space is a shared domain of humanity. IAC 2027 will bring together representatives of space agencies, industry leaders, the scientific community, and a new generation of innovators, creating a space for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and shaping the future of the space sector.

Learn more on the official website: iac2027.com, where you can also download our sponsorship brochure. If you would like to discuss opportunities for your brand's presence at IAC 2027, we are available for a conversation — and we warmly invite you to meet us during the upcoming International Astronautical Congress in Antalya. Visit the IAC 2027 booth to learn more, network, and start the dialogue early.

Save the date: 27 September – 1 October 2027. Join us also on LinkedIn (@IAC 2027 Poland) to stay up to date with the latest news.

HE SPACE it's all about people

CS a Sopra Steria company

Seeing Earth from Space: Data Shaping Our Understanding of Earth's Climate

In April 2026, the Artemis II mission renewed our sense of wonder for Earth—while also reminding us of our planet's fragility. Today, thanks to Earth Observation (EO) data from space, scientists, policymakers and institutions can better understand our changing climate and take informed action to protect it.

Across Europe, colleagues from HE Space and CS Group work every day within organisations such as ESA and EUMETSAT to ensure that EO data is reliably collected, processed, validated and delivered to users worldwide. From satellite operations and data processing chains to quality control, their expertise underpins the accuracy, continuity and trustworthiness of the information used to study Earth and its complex systems.

Often working behind the scenes, our engineers, analysts and specialists form a vital link between space missions and the communities relying on their data for climate monitoring,

environmental protection, disaster response and sustainable resource management.

HE Space also delivers the team for the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP) International Project Office to ESA, supporting the World Climate Research Programme. CMIP plays a vital role in providing climate projections to understand past, present and future climate changes. Its modelling efforts and extensive data infrastructure have become essential to the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other international and national climate assessments.

Do you want to join our experts and work on exciting projects? Meet us at IAC 2026 and many other conferences to discuss your career opportunities with our recruiters.

CENTRO INTERDISCIPLINARIO DE ESTUDIOS ESPACIALES

MIRA: Latin America's Space Debris Monitoring Platform

The Interdisciplinary Space Studies Centre (CIEE) at the National University of La Plata (UNLP), Argentina, is pleased to present MIRA — Monitoreo de Impactos y Reingreso Atmosférico (Monitoring of Impacts and Atmospheric Reentry) — a platform dedicated to tracking space debris and atmospheric reentries over Latin America.

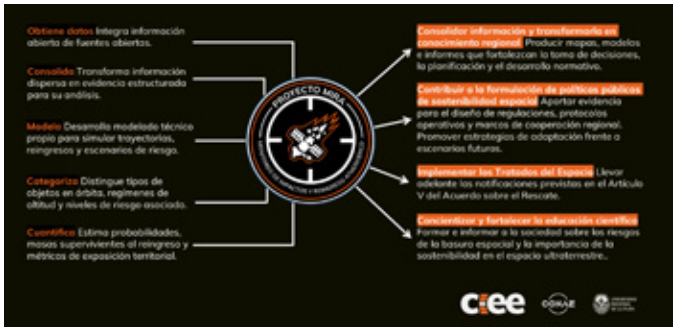
With over 36,000 tracked objects currently orbiting Earth at speeds exceeding 27,000 km/h, space debris poses a growing threat to operational satellites, future missions, and even human safety on the ground. Latin America, given its geographical extent and latitude, is a region of frequent reentry events, yet it has historically lacked a dedicated monitoring tool.

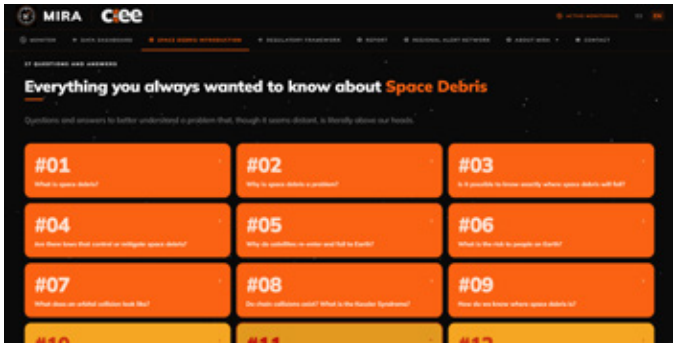
MIRA addresses this gap by integrating data from different sources to provide timely alerts and comprehensive risk analyses for the region. The platform offers orbital tracking dashboards, technical reentry reports, and an educational guide covering the science, law, and socioeconomic dimensions of space debris.

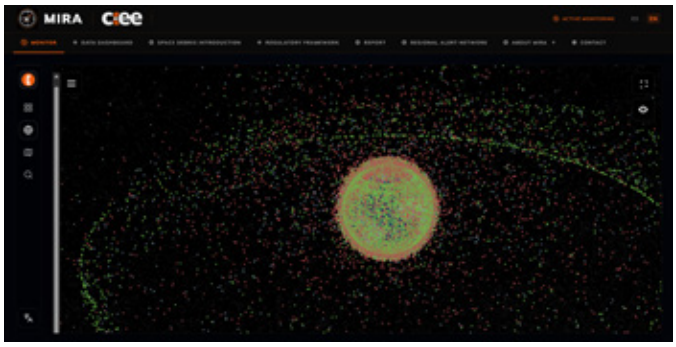
At its core, MIRA's primary objective is to integrate openly available data from open sources to produce maps, models, and reports that strengthen decision-making, planning, and regulatory development, serving governments, the private sector, and other organizations across the region.

MIRA is an open, multidisciplinary initiative combining aerospace engineering, space law, and space policy, a concrete contribution from the Global South to the global challenge of long-term space sustainability.

Website: https://www.ciee.unlp.edu.ar/mira







INTERNATIONAL LUNAR OBSERVATORY ASSOCIATION

It is with deep sadness that we at **International Lunar Observatory Association (ILOA)** share the news that our visionary Founder and Director, Steve Durst, passed away in February 2026.

Steve was an exemplary leader on the world stage of science, astronomy and space exploration. He was an international diplomat and a visionary, who formed the ILOA in Hawai'i USA (2007), along with its **Galaxy Forum** program (120 meetings since 2008) to advance 21st Century education and see Humans on the Moon.

For five decades, Steve served as Publisher and Editor of the Space Calendar at Space Age Publishing Company, operating offices in both Hawai'i and California.

Under his leadership, and through close collaboration with multiple nations and space organizations, ILOA achieved historic milestones. In 2024, our first astronomy instruments—the **ILO-X** mission—were delivered to the lunar surface aboard Intuitive Machines' IM-1 lander. This August, the ILO-C will launch aboard China's Chang'E-7 lander, with deployment to the Moon's surface anticipated in November or December 2026.

ILOA's dedicated Board of Directors remains committed to continuing this important work, including the flagship **ILO-1** mission, which is contracted for integration on the Astrolab FLEX-C rover.

We are deeply grateful for the many emails and expressions of support we have received during this time, honoring Steve and his extraordinary contributions. His "Aloha, Galactically" spirit and unwavering dedication to lunar science and exploration will continue to guide us.

Please contact us at info@iloa.org with any questions, to support us, or to share remembrances.

Łukasiewicz
Institute of Aviation

TeSat – Thermoplastic Small Satellite Platform (ESA contract no. 4000141621/23/NL/FGL)

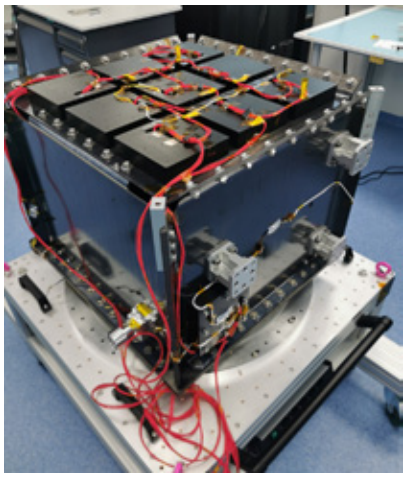
The small-satellite market is evolving rapidly, driven by the miniaturization of payloads, the deployment of large constellations, and the need for faster time-to-orbit. In response to constraints relating to mass, volume, thermal performance and radiation resistance, a project under the ESA ARTES programme, led by the Łukasiewicz Research Network – Institute of Aviation and Creotech Instruments, investigated the use of high-performance thermoplastic composites for the development of a satellite Engineering Model.

The project aimed to demonstrate a satellite structure made entirely of thermoplastic materials, manufactured using scalable, automation-ready processes. Key development activities included simplifying the structural design using solid laminates with rib-grid stiffeners to minimize part count and joining steps, as well as enabling the multifunctional fabrication of walls, interfaces, and stiffeners in a single process. Manufacturing concepts with dedicated tooling were adapted for both Automated Fibre Placement (AFP) and press thermoforming.

Technology development covered material characterization, in situ AFP using tapes, thermoforming with fabrics and joining methods: resistance welding and thermal insertion. These processes were progressively verified—from material specimens to full structural assembly—culminating in the integration of satellite instruments.

The resulting EM structure (655×655×506 mm) has a mass of 30 kg in composite form and 90 kg when fully equipped. It successfully passed the TVAC and vibration tests required for launch environments, reaching TRL 5.

This work demonstrates that thermoplastic composite technologies enable high-speed, repeatable manufacturing while maintaining structural performance. This project is an important step towards the more efficient and scalable production of next-generation satellite platforms.



The Moon Village Association (MVA) continues to expand its global activities, with a strong focus on collaboration, outreach and sustainable lunar development.

A key highlight is the ongoing Call for Moon Village Centres (MVC), inviting institutions worldwide to establish world-class facilities dedicated to implementing MVA's vision while fostering synergies with local priorities. These Centres will support research, education, and outreach, strengthening international cooperation in lunar exploration. Proposals remain open at https://moonvillageassociation.org/call-for-moon-village-centers/

MVA is also advancing dialogue on lunar governance through its joint efforts with IAU, COSPAR and IAA. Recognizing the urgency of balancing scientific and commercial interests, the initiative "Friends of SSSI on the Moon" continues to engage national delegations in shaping frameworks for Defining and Managing Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on the Moon.

The 10th Global Moon Village Workshop and Symposium will take place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 26-27 October 2026, hosted by the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GITSDA). The call for presentations and registration will open soon at https://moonvillageassociation.org/mva2026/

Looking ahead, the International Moon Day (IMD) 2026 Main Event will take place in Bogotá, Colombia, on 20 July 2026. The Association warmly invites organizations worldwide to host an IMD Global Event during the official IMD period (1 July – 31 October 2026). This is a unique opportunity to contribute to a growing global movement celebrating lunar exploration through educational, scientific and public engagement activities.

More information and event registration at:
https://internationalmoonday.org/host-an-imd-global-event/

Israel Space Week 2026: Inspiring Connections Across Earth and Space

Rakia is a public benefit corporation dedicated to advancing Israel's space ecosystem through human spaceflight, international collaboration, and public engagement. Through initiatives such as Space Campus IL, Israel's national student space community, and the Israel Space Forum, which connects industry, government, and academia, Rakia works to build a cohesive and forward-looking space ecosystem.

During Israel Space Week 2026, Rakia played a central role in designing and executing a nationwide program spanning industry, academia, education, and the general public. A key highlight was the astronaut delegation, led and hosted by Rakia, which brought nine international astronauts to Israel - the largest delegation ever to participate in Israel Space Week.

Throughout the week, the astronauts delivered over 20 engagements across the country, reaching more than 3,000 participants in person. Their impact extended far beyond physical events through a live educational broadcast, viewed by 1,600 classrooms and over 50,000 students, creating one of the largest space education moments ever held in Israel.

Alongside the astronaut program, Rakia led and co-produced a wide range of flagship events, in partnership with the Israel Space Agency at the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, including the 21st Ilan Ramon International Space Conference, industry-focused gatherings such as IL Space Pitch, and dedicated forums for students and young professionals. These events brought together senior leaders from the global space community, investors, policymakers, researchers, and students, strengthening both local and international collaboration. The program also reflected Rakia's broader "Space for All" vision through unique content-driven initiatives such as "Reflections on Space" - a multidisciplinary live cultural event for the general public, bringing together creators from different fields to explore the concept of space through performance and discussion, bridging art, thought, and science.

By combining high-level professional content with large-scale educational outreach, Israel Space Week 2026 reinforced Israel's position in the global space ecosystem and demonstrated the power of space as a platform for inspiration, collaboration, and impact.

We look forward to welcoming you to the next Israel Space Week, taking place in January 2027.

Festive Session at the Romanian Academy, Marking the 45th Anniversary of the First Space Flight by a Romanian Citizen

The Romanian Academy hosted a special session on 14 May 2026 at 10 a.m. to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the first space flight by a Romanian citizen, Dr. Eng. Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu.

The event will bring together representatives of the international space community, including astronauts and leaders of major global space organizations, highlighting Romanian contributions to space exploration and future perspectives in the field.

The session will be opened by the newly elected President of the Romanian Academy, Prof. Marius Andruh, followed by Prof. Dorel Banabic, Fellow of the Romanian Academy and President of the Technical Sciences Section, who will deliver a presentation on the history of Romanian flights.

Special remarks are expected from Gabriella Arrigo, President of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF); Pascale Ehrenfreund, President of COSPAR; Aarti Holla-Maini, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) (video message); Jean-Michel Contant, Secretary General of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA); and President of the Association of Space Explorers (ASE), astronaut Julie Payette. Astronauts from Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, and Turkey are invited to attend.

A historical presentation on Romania's first spaceflight in 1981, its evolution, and future outlook will be delivered by Dr. Eng. Dumitru-Dorin Prunariu, the first Romanian astronaut, Honorary Member of the Romanian Academy, and President of the Commission for Astronautics of the Romanian Academy, who will also conclude the session. The programme will include the launch of a special philatelic issue dedicated to space exploration in honour of the anniversary.

SARsatX

SARsatX Strengthens Global Recognition, Industrial Capability, and International Collaboration

SARsatX, a Saudi space company specializing in Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology, is emerging as a key player in the space-tech landscape—delivering advanced Earth observation capabilities that enable faster, more accurate decision-making across industries. The company is actively developing its own SAR satellite platform and in-house sensor technologies, forming the technical backbone of its mission roadmap.

SARsatX secured **third place globally at the Entrepreneurship World Cup (EWC) 2025** during Biban Global in Riyadh, distinguishing itself among thousands of startups worldwide. It earned a **$150,000** prize in the early-stage category, recognizing innovations in satellite and remote-sensing technologies. This achievement reflects SARsatX's growing role in advancing radar-based Earth observation solutions that support critical applications across sectors.

SARsatX also advanced national industrial capabilities through a new **strategic cooperation agreement with the National Industrial Development Center (NIDC)**, announced at the World Defense Show 2026 in Riyadh. The agreement formalizes joint efforts to develop Saudi Arabia's advanced satellite Manufacturing, Assembly, Integration, and Testing (MAIT) infrastructure, supporting national goals to localize space technologies and strengthen sovereign capabilities.

In parallel, SARsatX and the Saudi Space Agency joined an **international collaboration with the University of Portsmouth and Space South Central in the UK** to co-develop an Earth

observation mission concept. The project brought together UK and Saudi engineers to design a satellite constellation using a concurrent design approach. The collaboration established a framework for knowledge exchange and mission development.

For further information, please visit our website (https://www.sarsatx.com/) or contact us at info@sarsatx.com.

SECURE WORLD FOUNDATION

Secure World Foundation (SWF) and the Brazilian Space Agency will co-host the 8th Summit for Space Sustainability in Brasília, Brazil, on November 4–5, 2026.

This edition marks the first time the conference will be held in Latin America and the Caribbean, bringing together leaders from government, industry, academia, and civil society for focused dialogue on the long-term sustainability, security, governance, and safety of space activities.

The program will highlight Latin America and the Caribbean's expanding space activities and regional perspectives on space sustainability. It will also examine how space-enabled services support development priorities across the region, from environmental monitoring and disaster response to connectivity and public services.

This year's themes include:

- Aligning national ambitions with international best practices
- Benefiting by closing the gap between satellites and real-world outcomes
- Cooperating to strengthen shared stewardship, transparency, and safety
- Designing policy tools that align incentives with responsible behavior
- Exploring sustainable expansion beyond Earth orbit, including the Moon and Mars

More details, including participation options, will be available on the event website: swfsummit.org.

The Serhiy Korolyov National Space Museum serves as a modern platform for informal education, aimed at promoting space science and the natural sciences among people of various age groups. The museum's specialists have developed a series of integrated lessons combining astronomy, biology and English within an interdisciplinary approach.

The children explore the museum's national collection, which includes examples of space technology—space stations, satellites and spacecraft.

The biology involves conducting experiments similar to those

carried out in microgravity conditions on space stations and the space shuttle 'Columbia'. Particular attention is paid to Leonid Kadenyuk, the first astronaut of independent Ukraine: participants recreate aspects of his scientific research and familiarize themselves with materials relating to his spaceflight. The 'Space English' lessons make use of innovative educational tools, including robotic systems (such as the 'Mecanoid' robot), which help to increase engagement and improve learning outcomes.

Multimedia panels, flight simulators, VR headsets and holographic projections create an immersive experience and promote a better understanding of the Universe. An additional sensory element is a unique perfume recreating the scent of space and the lunar surface.

It regularly organises events aimed at improving the mental health of various sections of the population. For example, a project with cadets from the Zhytomyr Military Institute to learn English through guided tours and communication within the museum environment. The museum organises events for war veterans, their families, the families of those killed in action and missing in action, as well as for internally displaced persons.

SpaceLand Mars Habitat: From Microgravity to Mars and Earth

SpaceLand Africa presents the novel SpaceLand Mars Habitat, a low cost, low energy, low-upload ISRU based solution for Mars and Earth habitations. The concept delivers fail safe quick sheltering built inside out with bio cured local soil, minimizing payload and radiation exposure. The team leverages decades of microgravity R&D and 0 G flight experience to de risk habitat development and accelerate technology readiness from TRL 3 to TRL 6 within months. To fund development, a €1M outreach mock-up hosting a planetarium, microgravity STEM museum and Mars G facilities has been designed and is projected to generate €2M per year. Beyond Mars, the Habitat is a spin off to improve housing for vulnerable communities by replacing unhealthy bidonvilles with more saluber, easy-to-build housing, using a novel foldable formwork with no standard reinforcement systems, employing bio-processed local soil. Collaboration opportunities span governments, universities and industry; prior endorsements underscore interest and a South European Country has invited SpaceLand to develop flight and ground infrastructures on a renowned island of theirs. Following an ESA ESRIC presentation in Luxembourg in May, more will be disclosed at the AstroSummit, Roma (I), 22–23 June 2026, to explore partnerships in R&D, demo construction and technology transfer bridging space habitation and terrestrial social impact. The SpaceLand 0 G consortium includes Dr. Vladimir Pletser, former ESA scientist and microgravity flight record holder; Architect Celeste Petraroli, frm Lead Architect for Torino 2006 and Milano Cortina 2026 Olympics; Robert Feierbach, a veteran of international space commercialization involved in strategic initiatives also connected to the SpaceX's launch-services; and Doct. Carlo Viberti, former ESA Chairman of Technologies for ISS Phase 1 orbital station MIR and first private cosmonaut engineer nominee in the year 2000. Alongside colleagues from Boeing, FAA, Politecnico Milano, the consortium means over six centuries of experience in micro G STEM research, aeronautics, astronaut systems and habitat engineering. For partnership and scalability inquiries: SpaceLand@SpaceLand.it

St. Petersburg State University of Aerospace Instrumentation (SUAI) celebrates its 85th anniversary.

The university's history is closely linked to key milestones in Russian cosmonautics, from the launch of the first satellite and Yuri Gagarin's flight to the development of the Buran spacecraft. The research conducted by SUAI's scientists and students is applied in aviation, medicine, unmanned technologies, and digital manufacturing. The university focuses on aerospace communication, its own laboratories and space monitoring projects, contributing to the development of a seamless digital sky.

On January 26, 2026, the traditional shot was fired on the territory of the Peter and Paul Fortress in Saint Petersburg, marking the symbolic opening of the university's anniversary celebrations and scientific events. The honor of firing the salute was bestowed upon the Rector of the University, Yulia Antokhina. After that, a solemn meeting of the Academic Council was held, which was attended by famous graduates and distinguished guests of the university.

Shape the Future of Space Innovation – on Earth and in Space

Did you know that TU Wien offers a globally unique MBA in Space Architecture & Management? Bringing together expertise from ESA and NASA, international space startups, and even former astronauts, the program opens the door to one of the most exciting and fast-growing sectors of our time.

The global space industry is expanding at an unprecedented pace—creating new opportunities across business, technology, and sustainable development. TU Wien's Executive MBA in Space Architecture and Management is designed to prepare professionals for leadership in this dynamic environment. By combining economics, engineering, architecture, and social sciences, the program offers a truly interdisciplinary perspective on the future of space.

Participants gain the skills to manage and lead complex international projects while driving innovation in the evolving space economy. Guided by internationally recognized experts, they explore cutting-edge technologies, investment strategies, and pressing global challenges—from resource management to climate change. A key focus lies in connecting space technologies with real-world applications on Earth, demonstrating how insights from space can inspire sustainable solutions for our planet.

In addition to its specialization in Space Architecture, the modular MBA also provides a strong foundation in leadership and business essentials—ensuring graduates are equipped to make an impact across industries.

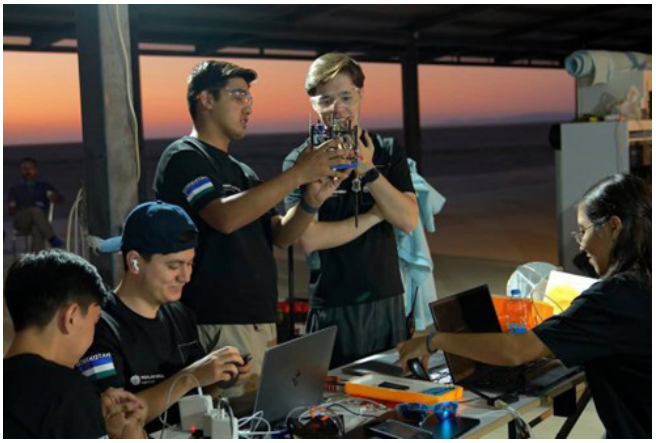
Next program start: October 22, 2026. Secure your place in the future of space innovation. Book your free, no-obligation consultation now.

Learn more: https://www.tuwien.at/en/ace/programs/mba-programs/space-architecture

From Near-Space Communication to Future Space Systems

Engaging students in hands-on space engineering is becoming an important driver of innovation in Uzbekistan. A team of students from Turin Polytechnic University in Tashkent has recently demonstrated this through the successful development and flight validation of a near-space communication system.

During a recent mission, the student-built platform reached an altitude of 35,530 meters under stratospheric conditions. Over a 2.5-hour flight, the team established and maintained continuous bidirectional communication between the vehicle and two ground stations located approximately 50 kilometers apart. More than 186,000 telemetry data packets were received and processed in real time, demonstrating the robustness and redundancy of the communication architecture in near-space environments. This work was conducted within the Near Space Voyager category, where the team was awarded 3rd place.



The project integrated multiple engineering disciplines, including communication systems, flight software, and ground station operations. From design to flight validation, the team gained hands-on experience in developing integrated aerospace systems and operating distributed ground infrastructure.

Building on this achievement, the team has qualified for the international finals of the Act In Space competition with a project focused on modular satellite technologies. They have also been selected for the CanSat Competition 2026, where they will conduct a launch campaign in Virginia, USA.

These achievements reflect the rapid growth of youth-driven space technology initiatives in Uzbekistan and highlight the country's emerging contribution to the global aerospace community.

INTERVIEW WITH…

Gaspard TWAGIRAYEZU

CEO, Rwanda Space Agency (RSA)
IAF VP for Emerging Space Ecosystems

1. Collaboration is key in the space sector. How do you plan to foster partnerships between emerging and established space nations?

Collaboration is at the heart of building an inclusive and sustainable global space ecosystem. My approach is centered on creating practical, mutually beneficial partnerships where emerging space nations are not only beneficiaries, but also active contributors to innovation, policy discussions, and market development.

Through the IAF platform, we aim to strengthen structured engagement between established and emerging space actors by promoting joint research initiatives, institutional partnerships, technology transfer, academic exchange programmes, and private sector cooperation. We also see great value in creating more opportunities for emerging nations to participate in global missions, downstream applications, and commercial space activities that directly address societal challenges.

Importantly, partnerships must be based on shared priorities. Many emerging space nations are leveraging space technologies to respond to pressing needs such as climate resilience, agriculture, disaster management, connectivity, and urban planning. These are areas where collaboration with established space nations can generate tangible global impact while accelerating the development of local ecosystems.

We also want to ensure that young professionals, startups, universities, and policy makers from emerging ecosystems have stronger access to international networks and decision-making platforms. The future of the space sector will depend on how inclusive and interconnected we make it today.

2. From your perspective, how do "emerging" space nations contribute to shaping international collaboration, capacity building, and their integration into the global space economy?

Emerging space nations are bringing a new level of dynamism, innovation, and relevance to the global space sector. Many of these countries are building their ecosystems with a strong focus on solving real-world challenges, which positions them as important contributors to international collaboration and sustainable development.

One of the key contributions of emerging space nations is the diversification of perspectives and priorities within the global space dialogue. They are helping shift the conversation toward how space technologies can support socioeconomic transformation, climate action, digital inclusion, food security, and resilience. This strengthens the relevance of the space sector beyond traditional boundaries.

Emerging nations are also becoming important hubs for talent development, entrepreneurship, and regional cooperation. Across Africa and other developing regions, we are seeing growing investments in education, research, innovation, and startup ecosystems connected to space technologies and applications. These developments are creating new opportunities for partnerships with established space agencies, universities, and industries.

In terms of the global space economy, emerging nations represent both new markets and new contributors. Their integration expands the global customer base for space services while also generating local innovations, policy models, and business opportunities that enrich the international ecosystem. As access to space technologies becomes more democratized, the participation of emerging nations will be essential to ensuring balanced and inclusive growth of the global space economy.

3. As IAF VP for Connecting Emerging Space Ecosystems, what goals have you set for strengthening the voice of emerging space nations within the global space community, and how do you envision the IAF platform fostering long-term international collaboration?

Hosting the IAF Global Space Conference on Climate Change in Rwanda would be a significant milestone not only for Rwanda, but also for Africa and emerging space ecosystems globally. It demonstrates the growing recognition that emerging nations are increasingly important stakeholders in shaping the future of the space sector.

One of our key goals is to position GLOC as a platform that amplifies the perspectives, priorities, and capabilities of emerging space nations, particularly in the context of climate action and sustainable development. We want the conference to showcase how space technologies can support practical solutions for global challenges while highlighting the innovation and leadership emerging from developing regions.

We also aim to use GLOC to strengthen long-term institutional collaboration between governments, industry, academia, startups, and international organizations. Beyond the conference itself, we hope to catalyze new partnerships, investment opportunities, research collaborations, and capacity-building initiatives that will continue delivering impact long after the event concludes.

The IAF platform plays a critical role in fostering this collaboration because it brings together a truly global and diverse community. Through its conferences, committees, and networking structures, the IAF creates opportunities for dialogue, trust-building, and cooperation across regions and sectors. My vision is to see the platform continue enabling more inclusive participation, especially for young professionals and emerging ecosystems, while promoting partnerships that translate into concrete projects, shared knowledge, and sustainable growth for the global space community.

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION

Join the world's leading space advocacy body!

Our Benefits

NETWORKING

- **Access a global network** of potential business partners and meet decision makers
- Promote your organization to the **workforce of tomorrow**
- Attract and exchange with s**tudents** and **young professionals** at our targeted events
- Interact with your peers in exclusive **IAF members lounges**
- Shape the space community by nominating an **IAF Bureau Member**

VISIBILITY

- **Promote your organization** on the IAF website, social media and the IAFastro app
- Reach more than **36.000 subscribers worldwide** through the **IAF Newsletter** and **Members' Corner**
- Gain visibility for your organization through the **IAF publications**
- Be included in all **IAF promotional materials**

RECOGNITION

- Earn public recognition of your organization's **achievements**
- **Nominate** candidates and b**e nominated** for the IAF Awards
- Access IAF events through **IAF Grants Programmes**
- Get privileged connection with **IAF's media partners**
- Boost your organization's awareness through **IAF Plenary Programmes**

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- Get **discounted rates on registration** and **exhibition** fees
- Receive **free access** to more than 55.000 manuscripts through the **IAF Digital Library**
- Book **complimentary meeting facilities** during IAF events
- Have **privileged access to sponsorship** opportunities at IAF events

Join Us

Apply using the **IAF Membership Application Platform**. Contact membership@iafastro.org

Connecting @ll Space People

International Astronautical Federation

100 Avenue de Suffren
75015 Paris, France
Tel: +33 1 45 67 42 60
E-mail: info@iafastro.org
www.iafastro.org

Be part of the conversation @iafastro

Connecting @ll Space People
for a sustainable future