

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Advancing the 77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026)

Ankara, Türkiye - Mehmet Fatih Kacır, Minister of Industry and Technology, met with the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) delegation and representatives of the IAC 2026 Local Organising Committee to review the progress of preparations for the **77th International Astronautical Congress (IAC 2026)**, to be held **5–9 October 2026** in **Antalya, Türkiye**.

Widely recognized as the world's largest and most prestigious gathering of the global space community, the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) brings together space agencies, industry leaders, researchers, and innovators shaping the future of the sector.

The meeting was attended by Yusuf Kırac, President of the Turkish Space Agency (TUA) and host of IAC 2026; Murat İkinci, Vice Chair of the SAHA İstanbul Board, representing SAHA İstanbul as co-host; and Christian Feichtinger, Executive Director of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), together with Elena Feichtinger, Senior Advisor of the IAF, representing the organizers of IAC 2026.



Discussions addressed Türkiye's space vision, recent national space projects, the growth of the country's space industry ecosystem, and the contribution IAC 2026 will make to Türkiye's international visibility. It was emphasized that **IAC 2026 in Antalya** will serve as a global platform to showcase Türkiye's capabilities in **space, aviation, and advanced technologies**.

Under the theme *"The World Needs More Space,"* IAC 2026 will welcome visionary ideas, innovative technologies, and pioneering research. The global space community will gather in Antalya to shape a future where space remains secure, accessible, and shared for the benefit of all.

Progress continues on the way to IAC 2026 in Antalya.

#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 604 members from 82 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>