

IAF BUSINESSES AND INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM (E6)  
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MENA: OVERCOMING BARRIERS AND PIONEERING SPACE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**Abstract**

Entrepreneurship in the space sector presents unique challenges, particularly in regions where the industry is still emerging. MENA has been at the forefront of developing a sustainable ecosystem for space entrepreneurship, navigating barriers such as limited funding, regulatory hurdles, and access to specialized infrastructure. Through our work in space analog missions, technological innovation, and community engagement, we have established a model that fosters collaboration between startups, research institutions, and government agencies.

This presentation will explore the challenges faced by space entrepreneurs in the MENA region and highlight successful strategies for overcoming them. We will discuss case studies of innovative ventures, the role of international partnerships, and policy recommendations to support the growth of space entrepreneurship. Additionally, insights into funding mechanisms, workforce development, and public-private collaboration will be shared to offer actionable takeaways for entrepreneurs worldwide.

By addressing both global and region-specific challenges, MENA is paving the way for the next generation of space entrepreneurs and contributing to the expansion of the global space economy.