

IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Enabling the Future - Developing the Space Workforce (5)

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EMPOWERING THE WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW THROUGH THE WSW 2023 THEME
“SPACE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP”

Abstract

This paper will focus on how World Space Week provides many opportunities for the development of the future, global workforce in the space sector. The leadership of the World Space Week Association (WSWA) declares a common theme for World Space Week every year, with the intent of focusing activities of both, WSW participants and the WSWA, on a relevant topic, showcasing the trends of the space sector. Singular focus and collaboration with stakeholders relevant to the theme allow the Association to provide opportunities for the advancement of participants in the space sector, while providing inputs, recommendations and solutions to the global space community. In 2023, the Association decided on the common theme “Space and Entrepreneurship”. By engaging youth and the public at a common timeframe during World Space Week, participating organizations benefit from the leverage that results from synchronization. This year, the important and inspiring messages of space entrepreneurship can be efficiently communicated with targeted audiences during the week. World Space Week Association and its supporters will be building up to the October 4-10 celebration in multiple ways including with webinars and communications campaigns. World Space Week 2023 will serve as a forum on these important issues, and an opportunity to educate and engage the public on the transition of Low Earth Orbit to a more entrepreneurial ecosystem. The event will bring this exciting message of space opportunity to students worldwide, inspiring them to study not only STEM, but business as well. It will also be an opportunity for space companies to encourage and recruit the workforce needed for the expanding commercial space industry globally.

Background: Established in 1981, the World Space Week Association is supporting the United Nations in the global coordination of the World Space Week, which was declared during UNISPACE III and is held every year, 4 – 10 of October. The mission of the Association is to bring space and space related technologies and activities closer to the public, strengthen the link between space and society and bring more understanding of space activities to the general public.