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KEYNOTE: A LIFETIME WORTH OF SPACE: IN MEMORY OF PROF. MARIANO ANDRENUCCI

Abstract

In March 2024, we all received the sad news that Prof. Mariano Andrenucci passed away. Prof. Andrenucci has always been very active within the IAF community. He has been member of the Space Propulsion Technical Committee for many years and, in this role, has given invaluable contributions to the propulsion sessions for many editions of the IAC. He was a true pillar of the electric propulsion community, and one of the early initiators of the research and development activities in Europe in the field. And even more important, he has represented an inspirational figure for many generations of propulsion engineers. This keynote will honour the memory of Prof. Andrenucci by highlighting his immense heritage, both personal and professional, and his crucial role in the last 50 years of space propulsion research. Several speakers will contribute to the keynote, who all had the privilege of working with Prof. Andrenucci, as a colleague and as a mentor. After an introduction from Angelo Cervone (current chair of the Space Propulsion Technical Committee), presentations will be given by Giorgio Saccoccia (European Space Agency, former chair of the Committee) and by Prof. Luca d'Agostino and/or Prof. Fabrizio Paganucci, who worked with Prof. Andrenucci at the University of Pisa and founded with him the company Alta S.p.A., one of the first successful electric propulsion startups in Italy and Europe.