



The
Andy
Thomas
Space
Foundation

News Release

Saturday 23 January 2021

ANDY THOMAS SPACE FOUNDATION TO BID FOR 2024 INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL CONGRESS

The Andy Thomas Space Foundation, supported by the South Australian Government and the Adelaide Convention Bureau, announce today their intention to collaborate on a bid for the 2024 International Astronautical Congress.

The IAC is the world's foremost gathering of space industry organisations, leaders and participants, and hosting rights are fiercely contested. Many governments regard the hosting of the IAC as a matter of national pride, in addition to the industry and touristic benefits. Winning a bid for the IAC is always a considerable challenge.

Adelaide hosted the IAC in 2017 which at the time was the largest international conference ever held in Adelaide. It attracted 4470 delegates and resulted in a \$24 million boost to the local economy.

ATSF chairman Michael Davis AO says the opportunity to host the five-day 2024 IAC has arisen through a combination of factors, including the success of the 2017 IAC, Australia's thriving space sector, international regard for Australia's - and Adelaide's - Covid19 response, and Adelaide's low-density lifestyle.

"The 2017 Congress inspired impressive growth in the Australian space sector, including establishment of the Australian Space Agency, the SmartSat CRC and the Andy Thomas Space Foundation, all headquartered in Adelaide. A congress in 2024 will be a great boost to the goal of the Australian Space Agency to grow the number of jobs in the national space industry to 30,000 by 2030" says ATSF CEO Nicola Sasanelli AM.

He added that the "strong economic tail of the 2017 Congress is evident from the knowledge transfer, research collaboration and other fruitful partnerships, and attraction of skilled staff to Adelaide and the economic impact of another congress in 2024 will be even greater."

"When the Foundation was formed last year," Mr Davis says, "one of its specific goals was to promote national education and outreach programs, and to conduct major space-related forums. The IAC fits that brief perfectly, and we're delighted to partner with the ACB in a bid to bring the Congress back to Adelaide, where it enjoyed resounding success."

The bidding process for the Congress is complex and unpredictable and involves six stages before the successful bidder is announced at the 2021 IAC in Dubai in late October 2021. It's known that rival bids for the 2024 Congress will be lodged from Milan and Budapest, and it's expected that there will be bids from several other international cities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION - ANDY THOMAS SPACE FOUNDATION

The Andy Thomas Space Foundation was founded in July 2020 by two men deeply committed to the space industry, to space education, to the business of space, and to the utilisation of space for peaceful purposes.

Space Lawyer Michael Davis AO and Adj. Professor Nicola Sasanelli AM, with the imprimatur of Australian astronaut Andy Thomas, established the Foundation to provide an Australian focus for all aspects of space education, business and innovation.

Mr Davis chairs the Foundation's Board of Directors and Professor Sasanelli is the CEO. Their vision is to promote, drive and support the highest quality space activities in Australia through education, research and innovation.

The three pillars of the Foundation's vision are advancing space education, raising space awareness and contributing to the national space community.

Among their goals are the development of space education, initially via the prioritisation of STEM subjects; raising space awareness by demonstrating connections between space science and technologies used in everyday life; and contributing to the international space community through events and educational initiatives.

The success of these objectives will be measured by the educational opportunities the Foundation creates for young Australians, which will in turn contribute to the growth and sustainability of an exciting new high-tech sector in Australia.

The Foundation is seeking partners with shared belief in the power of education, pursuit of excellence and commitment to diversity and inclusion.

The ATSF is funded by fundraising events, donations and grants.

If further information or comment is required please call:

ATSF Chairman Michael Davis AO - 0419 170251

ATSF CEO Nicola Sasanelli AM - 0488 565938

ATSF Media Consultant Terry Plane - 0429203706

Video messages from Dr Andy Thomas, Premier Steven Marshall and former Australian Space Agency CEO Dr Megan Clark are available on the ATSF website : www.andythomas.foundation