

News Release

Wednesday 2 March 2022

Launch of The Andy Thomas Space Foundation 2022 Space Education Fund

The Andy Thomas Space Foundation today launched its 2022 Space Education Fund, with an expanded set of scholarship and prize programs, to a value of more than \$300,000, creating high-quality space education opportunities for students and researchers across Australia.

This announcement follows the Prime Minister's announcement on 25 February that the Morrison Government is injecting more than \$65 million to support new space initiatives including sending another Australian on a future space mission. See <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/fast-tracking-jobs-and-technologies-space>

A key element of the PM's announcement was that improving our national space capability and creating exciting career opportunities is at the heart of as part of our national mission to triple the size of the sector to \$12 billion and create up to 20,000 new jobs by 2030.

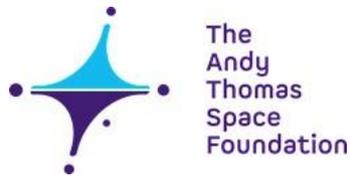
Commenting on the Foundation's achievements to date the CEO, Nicola Sasanelli AM, said *'In the first two years of operations, the ATSF has provided diverse education opportunities for students and young researchers across Australia, generating more than half a million dollars in scholarships, prizes and awards. These opportunities would not be possible without the success of the biannual Australian Space Forum, Australia's premier B2B space event, and the support of our sponsors and donors.'*

In 2022 nine national programs will benefit students at all stages, ranging from primary students to post-graduates, plus an additional international program funded by Cosine, a Netherlands space company. All of our programs are designed to advance the Foundation's mission of providing diverse and accessible opportunities for young people who have a passion for space.

ATSF Chair, Michael Davis AO said *'We were delighted with the response to our ambitious inaugural programs. There is no doubt that young people are intrigued by the wonder of space, and by sustaining and rewarding their interest, the Foundation is making a tangible contribution to the development of our industry and the creation of a highly-skilled, STEM-educated workforce.'*

With a particular focus on innovative learning, the Foundation will again host industry-leading programs, including the 3D Innovation Challenge alongside co-partners, the SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre and South Australian Education Technology company, [Makers Empire](#). Its CEO, Jon Soong, said of last year's challenge: *'We were thrilled to partner with the ATSF on a pioneering program to deliver space technology education and awareness of Australian space career opportunities to primary school children last year. We look forward to delivering another fantastic program to more primary school children this year,'*

With opportunities available for all education levels, the Foundation, in partnership with ASX-listed space and defence company [Electro Optic Systems](#), will host the Space Systems Research Awards, enabling Australian researchers and doctoral candidates to showcase their novel projects. EOS CEO, Glen Tindall highlighted the importance of the programs, saying *"It's only by investing in the nation's*



best and brightest young researchers that we will achieve the ambition of advancing Australia's space capabilities and creating an enduring sovereign space industry.”

The Foundation is proud of its contributions to Australian space education and looks forward to further expanding its contribution in future years, through generous corporate support and donations, both national and international.

For more information about the nine Andy Thomas Space Foundation education programs and for details on how to apply, visit: <https://andythomas.foundation/the-andy-thomas-space-foundation-education-fund-programs/>

About The Andy Thomas Space Foundation

Named in honour of Australian born and educated veteran of four space missions, The Andy Thomas Space Foundation was founded in July 2020 with the vision 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. The Foundation collaborates with partners with shared beliefs in the power of education, the pursuit of excellence and a commitment to diversity and inclusion. The ATSF is funded by industry and fundraising events, donations and grants.

For more information about the 2022 Andy Thomas Space Foundation Education Program, visit:

[Education Program - The Andy Thomas Space Foundation](#)

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