



NSW Primary Schools Are Invited To Apply for Sponsored Space Discovery Program

In the lead-up to the **76th International Astronautical Congress: IAC-2025 Sydney**, [The Andy Thomas Space Foundation](#) and Australian-owned EdTech company, [Makers Empire](#), are joining forces to deliver an engaging education program for 32 NSW schools.

The [International Astronautical Congress \(IAC\)](#) is the world's biggest space congress attracting more than 6,000 participants from the global space community. Covering all space sectors and topics, it offers the latest information and developments in academia and industry, networking opportunities, and potential partnerships.

The **NSW Space Discovery program** is a space education program for 32 NSW primary schools designed to engage students in STEM learning and promote awareness of opportunities in the space industry. It offers exciting, space industry links and real-world learning opportunities. The program is supported by the NSW Government through the **NSW Department of Investment, Enterprise and Trade**.

The **NSW Space Discovery program** is modeled on the Andy Thomas Space Foundation's successful *Kids in Space* program, and will be delivered to 32 NSW schools during 2024/2025: 16 schools will take part during terms 3 & 4 2024, and a further 16 schools will take part during terms 1 & 2, 2025.

Selected NSW schools will receive a package worth approximately \$6,499 including:

- 2-5+ teachers will participate in the accredited Makers Empire Learning By Design program with guest speakers from the space industry.
- 1 x 12 months Makers Empire School Subscription (3D design software, teacher dashboard, 130 curriculum-aligned lesson plans, built-in assessment, online professional development (PD), ongoing support, updates and maintenance).
- 1 x brand-new space-themed challenge course with NSW space industry experts.
- 1 x Flashforge 3D printer and 3 rolls of PLA filament.
- Hospitality for PD days and Showcase Day in NSW.

'We are thrilled to participate on a local level in engaging students in the excitement and opportunities available through having the International Astronautical Congress here in Australia', said Peter Nikoloff, Executive Director, Andy Thomas Space Foundation.

'By partnering with the NSW Government, we have the unique opportunity to deliver local industry information directly to the students and their teachers, encouraging the development of an interest in

space and its ability to improve life on Earth for all. Improving national sovereign capabilities by developing the next generation of space workforce is critical to the development of Australian economic prosperity.’

“NSW is leading Australia’s space capabilities and activities – we’re home to over 30 per cent of the country’s space businesses and we’re determined to grow our pipeline of talent through programs like this,” Investment NSW Deputy Secretary Katie Knight said.

“STEM learning supports critical thinking and collaboration, which are important skills for students to develop, and a key focus of this program which will provide hands-on learning and promote future career opportunities.

“Students will be provided with an immersive experience around space technology while each school will receive a 3D printer and access to an online learning platform for 12 months, meaning the whole school will benefit from the program, not just those students and teachers taking part.”

Expressions of interest from schools close on **31 March 2024**. Learn more and apply here:

www.makersempire.com/nsw-space-discovery-program-eoi/

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