

Registrations Now Open for Arab Region's First-Ever International Astronautical Congress

- *The event will be held at the World Trade Centre in Dubai from 25-29 October 2021*
- *UAE is the first Arab country to host the IAC since its establishment in 1950*

Dubai, UAE, 26 March 2021: Registrations are now open for the 72nd edition of the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) 2021, organised by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) in collaboration with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to be held at the World Trade Centre in Dubai from 25-29 October 2021. IAC is the world's premier space event, and the UAE is the first Arab nation to host it since its establishment in 1950.

H.E. Yousuf Hamad AlShaibani, Director General, MBRSC, said: "Having the UAE host the IAC after just a decade of space activity is a matter of pride, and an attestation of our commitment to keeping up with the latest technological developments and innovations."

Salem AlMarri, Assistant Director General for Scientific and Technical Affairs, MBRSC and local organising committee chair for the IAC 2021, said: "The Congress will accelerate the growth of the space sector in the region and will also act as a knowledge enrichment platform for the youth in the fields of space science and technology."

Pascale Ehrenfreund, President of International Astronautical Federation said: "We are delighted to host the 72nd edition of the International Astronautical Congress for the first time in the Arab World and in the UAE. We look forward to sharing ideas and networking with like-minded people and peers from the region and the world. We remain committed to the exchange of knowledge and expertise to find solutions in matters relating to space and humanity."

The IAC draws high-level stakeholders from space agencies and institutions around the world under one roof to exchange information and ideas, share developments and advances, swap

insights, strategies and rising trends in the fields of space research and exploration. The Congress will feature a line-up of thematic plenary events, highlight and keynote lectures, in-depth technical and special sessions, interactive workshops in addition to an exclusive global networking forum, social events and a space science exhibition, all tailored to encourage engagement.

To register for the event, visit <https://iac2021.org/registration> and for any other queries related to the registration, please email iac2021@dwtc.com.

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About MBRSC:

The Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre, founded in 2006, is home to the UAE National Space Programme. The Centre builds and operates earth observation satellites, offering imaging and data analysis services to clients around the world. It has launched the DubaiSat-1, DubaiSat-2 and the KhalifaSat, which was developed 100% in the UAE by a team of highly qualified Emirati engineers. The Centre launched the Emirates Mars Mission “Hope Probe”, the first Arab interplanetary mission, on 20th July 2020. The probe is expected to reach the Martian orbit by 2021 and gather key scientific data about Mars’ atmosphere. Recently, the Centre announced the launch of the Emirates Lunar Mission, the first Emirati and Arab mission to explore the Moon and plans to develop MBZ-SAT, the most advanced commercial satellite in the region in the field of high-resolution satellite imagery. Furthermore, MBRSC is hosting the 72nd edition of the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) 2021, the world’s premier space event, in Dubai. The UAE is the first Arab nation to host the IAC since its establishment in 1950. The Centre is also responsible for the UAE Astronaut Programme, which saw the launch of Hazzaa AlMansoori, the first Emirati Astronaut, to the International Space Station on a scientific mission on 25th September 2019, and the development of the Mars 2117 Programme to build a human colony on Mars.

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