



Press Release:

Latest Developments in Research and Technology

World's Premier Global Space Event attracts the Who is Who of Space

New insights and developments in astronomy, space business and women in aerospace: these are just three of well over 2,000 topics, that are to feature at the 2018 International Astronautical Congress (IAC). Around 4,500 delegates from 90 countries are expected to gather at the Bremen Exhibition Centre between Monday, October 1st and Friday, October 5th, 2018 for the world's largest space congress. Amongst them: policy, business and science leaders. Up until Saturday, June 30, the congress organizers are granting an early bird discount.

The topics at this year's congress range from human space flight to Lunar and Mars missions, space systems and propulsion, space law, earth observation and extra-terrestrial intelligence as well as scientific journalism. "Within the congress programme, the highlight lecture series and plenary events are stand-alone events and should not be missed", says Birgit Kinkeldey, Head of Corporate Communication at the local IAC organiser ZARM, the Center of Applied Space Technology and Microgravity at the University of Bremen. "We are pleased to welcome such highly accomplished speakers to our congress."

Professor Dr. Karsten Danzmann, Director of the Albert Einstein Institute at the University of Hannover, will be presenting his research at one of the three highlight lectures. As a physicist, Professor Danzmann is one of the pioneers who has shown that the gravitational waves theory that Albert Einstein developed over a century ago, actually holds true. According to Einstein's predictions, gravitational waves are created through the accelerated mass set free when two black holes merge or collide. Because the waves do not completely dissipate over time, events that are long-past should still be trackable to this day. Danzmann and his team achieved this breakthrough discovery in 2015 by developing important detector technologies for space instrumentation.

The physicist is also playing a leading role in research relating to a space-based gravitational-wave detector called LISA, that will be working in an even more sensitive frequency range and is scheduled to be launched in the 2030s. "It's really an exciting time for gravitational-wave astronomy," says Danzmann. "With satellite-based observatories such as the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna LISA, we may even make the echo of the big bang audible."



Tom Enders, CEO of the aerospace company Airbus, will speak about business opportunities in space during the second highlight lecture. According to Enders, the IAC's conference slogan, "#InvolvingEveryone" precisely catches the mood of our times. "In my conference speech, I want to take a look at the decision-making processes that are required for an exciting future for space", the Airbus CEO says. Instead of focusing on specific technologies, Enders will speak about emerging business opportunities for enterprises in space, which he predicts to be in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

The organisers of the IAC are also convinced that involving everyone is one of the main factors in advancing the space sector. Among various other activities, the organising committee will host a school student congress, a get-together for parliamentarians, and an open day for the general public. There are of course many more top-class events to be found in the full congress programme.

This includes the panel discussion featuring women in the space community, which will be held in front of the Congress Plenum. This panel will be headed by Professor Dr. Pascale Ehrenfreund, Chair of the Executive Board of the German Space Agency DLR, Simonetta Di Pippo, Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and President and COO of SpaceX, Gwynne Shotwell, the woman behind SpaceX's reusable Falcon 9 Rocket and the company's space tourism plans. The three leaders will talk about the female impact within the industry, as well as on humanitarian issues, such as combatting hunger; these challenges can only be accomplished by everyone working together.

The IAC is hosted by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), which is based in Paris. Founded in 1951, the non-governmental organisation aims to promote worldwide scientific exchange and international cooperation. The congress is organised by the IAF and in its 69th year.

To find out more, please visit: www.iac2018.org

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