SPACE CITIES NETWORK

20 October 2024

Space Cities Network

a new constellation of international cities

to support projects and events

in the field of Aeronautics, Space and Astronomy

SEOUL Your Complete MICE City

LAUSANNE MONTREUX CONGRESS

Houston

Ōtautahi Christchurch

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Introduction

Introducing the Space Cities Network, **an association of four International Convention Bureaux** marking a new chapter in global collaboration for the fields of aeronautics and space. This initiative focuses on uniting cities to promote international projects and events in the domains of aeronautics, space, and astronomy.

Space Cities Network aims to create a cohesive global platform where:

- **Cities collaborate** to drive the space community with expertise in private, public networking.
- **Events and projects** in aeronautics, space, and astronomy are supported.
- **Knowledge sharing** among public and private sectors is prioritized.

The network's significance lies in its ability to foster international cooperation, enhancing the capacity for science, technological advancements and groundbreaking discoveries.

Why Aeronautics and Space Need Teamwork

Innovation in aeronautics and space demands a collaborative approach, leveraging global partnerships to drive technological advancements. ***With the aerospace economy forecast to skyrocket to $1.8 trillion by 2035[i], up from $630 billion in 2023, collaboration is crucial for maximizing opportunities and addressing challenges.***

Knowledge sharing among public and private sectors is essential for the success of current and future projects, fostering a thriving community in Space.
Cities act as pivotal hubs where these interactions can flourish particularly by hosting conferences, summits, and meetings that bring together industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers.

Why collaboration is essential

1. **Complex projects**: Modern aeronautics and space projects are increasingly complex, requiring diverse expertise that span multiple disciplines.
2. **Resource management**: Effective resource management necessitates shared access to cutting-edge technologies and facilities.

3. **Navigating regulations**: Navigating the intricate web of international regulations benefits from a unified approach.

How cities can help

Cities play an integral role as hubs for events supporting the space community:

- **Hosting international conferences**: Facilitating knowledge exchange through events like the International Astronautical Congress.
- **Supporting startups**: Providing platforms for emerging companies to develop innovative solutions.
- **Engaging the public**: Promoting awareness and interest in space exploration through public programs.

By embracing collaboration through initiatives like the Space Cities Network, cities worldwide can ensure sustained growth and innovation in the aeronautics and space sectors.

Key Players Driving the Space Cities Network Forward

The Space Cities Network will be powered by a diverse array of entities encompassing industries, universities, government bodies, and research centers. This multifaceted involvement ensures a robust foundation for innovation and growth.

Industries
Industries play a crucial role by bringing cutting-edge technology and practical applications to the table. For instance, General Electric has been instrumental in developing advanced propulsion systems and avionics that are pivotal for current and future aeronautical projects.

Universities
Universities contribute through groundbreaking research and development. One notable example is EPFL Lausanne in Switzerland, which has spearheaded numerous projects in space technology, including satellite deployment and quantum communications.

Government Support
Government support is another cornerstone of the Space Cities Network. Cities such as Houston, USA, benefit from strong backing by NASA, driving space exploration initiatives and fostering an environment ripe for innovation.

Research Centers
Research centers also play a vital role. In Christchurch, New Zealand, dedicated centers focus on aerospace engineering and environmental monitoring via satellites, supporting both local and international projects.

Other member cities like Seoul, South Korea provide a comprehensive framework through public-private partnerships, elevating their status as global hubs for aeronautics and space exploration.

By leveraging the strengths of these key players, the Space Cities Network not only fosters technological advancements but also cultivates an environment conducive to international collaboration.

Showcasing Member Cities

Lausanne, Switzerland
Lausanne is renowned for its academic prowess and technological advancements. The city houses the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), a leading research institute in space technology. EPFL's Space Center helps in collaborating on projects like satellites, material, energy, sustainable space exploration technologies. The university laboratories and research institutes with new and existing companies, offers a unique public and private innovation ecosystem with a continued growth of the aeronautics and aerospace industry in Switzerland.
EPFL and Lausanne is at a glance, over 10,000 students of 120 different nationalities with over 350 specialized laboratories, 21 invention disclosure in 2020, 75 priority patents filed in 2020, 229 startups established between 2010 and 2020. It offers the perfect setting to gather, meet and network with the Swisstech Convention Centre as a venue- a jewel of innovation and technology awarded best venue for the 6th time in Switzerland.

Houston, USA
Known as Space City, *Houston* is home to NASA's Johnson Space Center, a pivotal hub for human spaceflight training, research, and mission control. Houston's aerospace sector provides extensive support for commercial space ventures and fosters innovation through initiatives like the Pumps & Pipes event where representatives of

aerospace, medicine and energy share latest ideas and best practices.
https://pumpsandpipes.org/

Christchurch, New Zealand
Christchurch is emerging as a critical player in the global aerospace community. The city's burgeoning aerospace sector benefits from collaborations with international partners and local entities such as the University of Canterbury. Christchurch hosts events like the New Zealand Aerospace Summit which promotes industry growth, networking and innovation.

Seoul, South Korea
As a tech giant, Seoul is looking to integrate cutting-edge technology into its aeronautics and space endeavours. The city is exploring future collaboration with the recently established Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA) as well as seeking industrial partnerships with the Korea Aerospace Industries Association (KAIA), which represents Korea's aerospace industry. By supporting research projects and promoting industry growth, Seoul's vibrant tech ecosystem continues to foster numerous startups specializing in aerospace innovations, paving the way for these potential partnerships.

Opportunities for International Events

- **Lausanne:** It is a perfect setting to gather, meet and network around a common theme. Lake and mountains as a background, and a Space Centre with a strong Swiss space community (the result of an historical background as a founding member of ESA-European Space Agency). With the SwissTech Convention Centre as a venue, a jewel of innovation and technology, hosting scientific, academic and/or space market events will bring an ROI in all senses.

- **Houston:** Houston, home to NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) and Houston Spaceport, is an ideal place to host aerospace meetings due to its strong aerospace ecosystem with over 500 related firms and institutions, strategic location and infrastructure, and educational and research institutions like Texas A&M Space
  Institute and the University of Houston. The supportive business environment, bolstered by organizations like the Greater Houston Partnership- GHP, which actively support the aerospace industry through events, networking opportunities, and economic incentives, further enhances its appeal.

- **Christchurch:** Located in the heart of New Zealand's stunning South Island, Christchurch is the country's 2nd largest city and boasts world class conference infrastructure, a compact and walkable city with plentiful green spaces for delegates to enjoy, and incredible pre and post touring experiences. With one of the city's key business clusters being aerospace and future transport, the city is primed to host international conferences and events in related fields. With clear

airways, proximity to international air and sea ports, and access to infrastructure and talent, Christchurch is a hub for aerospace and future transport innovation. A mix of start-ups and entrepreneur-driven companies are fuelling the transition from fossils to renewable, improving the way we move, and using data to create a better future that is out of this world.

- **Seoul:** As the 4th largest city for international conferences according to UIA rankings and 10th according to ICCA, Seoul is a global leader in hosting world-class events. The city boasts a perfect MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) infrastructure, with state-of-the-art venues and facilities. Seoul is an ideal location for holding tech expos and specialized forums, where academia and industry can come together to collaborate on advancements in the aerospace sector. With its vibrant tech ecosystem and deep connections to leading universities, Seoul provides an unmatched platform for showcasing innovations and fostering partnerships in aeronautics and space technology.

The launch of an association of International Convention Bureaux known as the *Space Cities Network* will further enhance these cities' ability to host significant events, driving global collaboration in aeronautics and space.

Strategic Partnerships Fuelling Advancements in Aeronautics and Space World

Strategic partnerships have become the cornerstone of innovation in aeronautics and space, exemplified by initiatives such as the Artemis Accords and the NISAR satellite project. The Artemis Accords: is a Global Effort for Lunar Exploration under the The Artemis project.

It is an international agreement to return humans to the Moon and establish a sustainable presence, underscores the necessity of cooperation among nations and cities. As of June 2024, 43 countries have signed the Artemis Accords: Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Czechia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, South Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Uruguay.

By joining forces, member cities contribute their unique capabilities, from technological expertise to logistical support, enabling monumental achievements in space exploration.

The NISAR Satellite Project: NASA and ISRO Join Forces

The **NISAR satellite project**, a joint mission between NASA and ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), further illustrates the power of collaboration. This partnership aims to develop a sophisticated radar imaging satellite to monitor Earth's changes with unprecedented accuracy. Member cities involved in this initiative provide critical infrastructure and research facilities, fostering a collaborative environment that drives technological advancements.

Those two examples of main projects are all structured under 3 **Key Points:**

- Global Partnerships: Member cities pool resources and knowledge to overcome complex challenges.

- **Innovation Hubs**: Cities serve as centers for research, development, and testing.

- **Economic Growth**: Collaborative projects like Artemis Accords fuel local economies through job creation and investment opportunities.

Strategic partnerships are instrumental in harnessing collective strengths, ensuring that cities within the Space Cities Network can achieve groundbreaking milestones in aeronautics and space technology.

Conclusion: Embracing a New Era of Global Cooperation in Aeronautics and Space

Encouraging cities worldwide to join forces through membership in the **Space Cities Network** is crucial for fostering innovation-driven growth across borders. This initiative offers several potential benefits:

- **Increased access to funding opportunities:** Collaborative projects with the use of events production and management often attract more substantial investments in any format.

- **Enhanced visibility on an international stage:** Participating cities gain prominence through their contributions to advancements in space exploration.

The launch of the *Space Cities Network*, an association of International Convention Bureaux focused on Aeronautics and Space, marks the beginning of a new era of global cooperation. By working together we can drive significant progress in space technology and innovation.

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FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

What is the Space Cities Network?
The Space Cities Network is an association of International Convention Bureaux focused on promoting international collaboration in the fields of aeronautics, space, and astronomy. It aims to unite cities globally to advance projects and events related to these domains.

Why is a collaborative approach important in aeronautics and space?
A collaborative approach is essential for driving technological advancements in aeronautics and space. It allows for knowledge sharing among public and private sectors, fostering a thriving community that can tackle challenges and maximize opportunities as the aerospace economy is projected to reach $1.8 trillion by 2035.

Who are the key players involved in the Space Cities Network?
The Space Cities Network involves a diverse range of entities including industries, universities, government bodies, and research centers. Notable contributors include General Electric from the industry sector and EPFL Lausanne from the academic sector.

What unique strengths do member cities bring to the Space Cities Network?
Member cities such as Lausanne, Houston, Christchurch and Seoul each have unique strengths and contributions related to aeronautics or space. These cities can host international events or initiatives that support advancement in space exploration and business efforts.

How do strategic partnerships contribute to technological advancements in this field?
Strategic partnerships among member cities are crucial for driving innovations like the Artemis Accords initiative or the NISAR satellite project. These collaborations enhance research capabilities and facilitate joint ventures that push the boundaries of technology in aeronautics and space.

What future trends does the Space Cities Network focus on?
The Space Cities Network focuses on emerging trends such as quantum technologies and clean energy initiatives. These areas hold promise for future projects while aligning with sustainable development goals through collaborative efforts within this global network.

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[i] News releases WEF « Space Economy Set to Triple to." April 2024